

Aruba refinery restart delayed

Valero Energy Corp will decide in late December or January whether to restart its shuttered Aruba refinery, Chief Executive Bill Klesse told analysts on Thursday.

The decision had been slated for mid-October. "Probably it is late December or January when we face the decision whether we start up and that will depend on our economics at the time," Klesse told investors at the Barclays Capital CEO Energy-Power Conference in New York.

Valero shut the 235,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) plant in July 2009 because economic conditions rendered it unprofitable. Other options for the refinery have included a partner or sale.

Company spokesman Bill Day later on Thursday attributed the delay to an overhaul of the refinery that had been extended to late December or early January from mid-October.

Once completed, the company will decide whether to restart units depending on margins.

"The maintenance work is being done with the intention of operating the refinery, and unless margins decline substantially, we expect that economics will support a restart," Day said.

Continued on Page A14



Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 74.57
↓ 1.45

Baltimore hospital gunman kills himself, mother

Page 5

1-in-7 Americans

A man who did not wish to be identified, who lost his job two months ago after being hurt on the job, works to collect money for his family on a Miami street corner Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010. He said he collects unemployment but added it does not cover the cost of living.

*Associated Press
Next Page*



Pope Benedict XVI is seen on stage during his mass at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, Scotland, Thursday Sept. 16, 2010. Pope Benedict XVI arrived today to start a four-day visit, the first-ever state visit by a Pope to Britain.

Associated Press

Pope admits church failures in sex scandal

NICOLE WINFIELD,
VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writers

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI waded into the hostile atmosphere Thursday of highly secular Britain, admitting the Catholic Church did not act decisively or quickly enough to remove priests who molested children in his strongest comments yet on the worldwide sex abuse crisis shaking his church.

In a visit unprecedented for the bitter opposition to his papacy, Benedict warned against "aggressive forms" of secularism. The German pope recalled how Britain had stood against "Nazi tyranny that wished to eradicate God from society."

Benedict's historic four-day state visit has been overshadowed by disgust over the abuse scandal and indifference in Britain, where Catholics are a minority of 10 percent and endured centuries of bloody persecution and discrimination until the early 19th century. The trip is the first state visit by a pope to the U.K., and his meeting with Queen Elizabeth II was symbolically significant because of the historic divide between the officially Protestant nation and the Catholic Church.

Only 65,000 of the faithful had tickets to an open-air Mass at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow, far less than the 100,000 initially expected.

Continued on Page A6

Census: 1 in 7 Americans lives in poverty



A woman stocks up on food at Sacred Heart Community Center's pantry in San Jose, Calif., Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010. The ranks of the working-age poor climbed to the highest level since the 1960s as the recession threw millions of people out of work last year, leaving one in seven Americans in poverty.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

By HOPE YEN,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The ranks of the working-age poor climbed to the highest level since the 1960s as the recession threw millions of people out of work last year, leaving one in seven Americans in poverty.

The overall poverty rate climbed to 14.3 percent, or 43.6 million people, the Census Bureau said Thursday in its annual report on the economic well-being of U.S. households. The report covers 2009, President Barack Obama's first year in office.

The poverty rate increased from 13.2 percent, or 39.8 million people, in 2008.

The share of Americans without health coverage rose from 15.4 percent to 16.7 percent — or 50.7 million people — mostly because of the loss of employer-provided health insurance during the recession. Congress passed a health overhaul this year to address the rising numbers of uninsured people, but its main provisions will not take effect until 2014.

In a statement, President Barack Obama called 2009 a tough year for working families but said it could have been worse.

"Because of the Recovery Act and many other programs providing tax relief and income support to a majority of working families — and especially those most in need — millions of Americans were kept out of poverty last year," Obama said. The new figures come at a politically sensitive time, just weeks before the Nov. 2 congressional elections, when voters restive about high unemployment and the slow

pace of economic improvement will decide whether to keep Democrats in power in the House and Senate or turn to Republicans.

The 14.3 percent poverty rate, which covers all ages, was the highest since 1994. It was lower than predicted by many demographers who were bracing for a record gain based on last year's skyrocketing unemployment. Many had expected a range of 14.7 percent to 15 percent.

Broken down by state, Mississippi had the highest share of poor people, at 23.1 percent, according to rough calculations by the Census Bureau. It was followed by Arizona, New Mexico, Arkansas and Georgia. On the other end of the scale, New Hampshire had the lowest share, at 7.8 percent.

Analysts said the full blow of lost incomes was cushioned somewhat by increases in Social Security payments in 2009 as well as federal expansions of unemployment insurance, which rose substantially under the economic stimulus program. With the additional unemployment benefits, workers were eligible for extensions that gave them up to 99 weeks of payments after a layoff.

David Johnson, the chief of the Census Bureau's household economics division, estimated that expanded unemployment benefits helped keep 3.3 million people out of poverty last year. The 2009 poverty level was set at \$21,954 for a family of four, based on an official government calculation that includes only cash income, before tax

deductions. It excludes capital gains or accumulated wealth, such as home ownership, as well as noncash aid such as food stamps.

An additional 7.8 million people would have been counted above the poverty line if food stamps and tax credits were included as income, Johnson said.

Last year saw the biggest single-year increase in Americans without health insurance, lifting the total number to the highest since the government began tracking the figures in 1987. The number of people covered by employment-based health plans declined from 176.3 million to 169.7 million, although those losses were partially offset by gains in government health insurance such as Medicaid and

Medicare.

Diane Rowland, executive vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, said additional increases in the uninsured are probable in the short run.

In 2014, under the new health law, Medicaid will be expanded to pick up millions more low-income people, and the government will offer tax credits for many middle-income households to use to buy coverage through new online insurance markets in each state. By 2019, the government has estimated that nearly 93 percent of the U.S. population will have health insurance, roughly a 10 percentage point increase from today's level.

Other census findings:

— Among the working-age

population, ages 18 to 64, poverty rose from 11.7 percent to 12.9 percent. That puts it at the highest since the 1960s, when the government launched a war on poverty that expanded the federal role in social welfare programs from education to health care.

— Poverty rose among all race and ethnic groups, but stood at higher levels for blacks and Hispanics. The number of Hispanics in poverty increased from 23.2 percent to 25.3 percent; for blacks it increased from 24.7 percent to 25.8 percent.

The number of whites in poverty rose from 8.6 percent to 9.4 percent.

— Child poverty rose from 19 percent to 20.7 percent. □

Miss. judge frees 2 men wrongly jailed 30 years



HATTIESBURG, Miss. — A judge on Thursday freed two men who spent three decades in prison before DNA evidence showed they didn't rape a woman and cut her throat in a grisly 1979 attack.

A crowded courtroom erupted in applause after Forrest County Circuit Judge Robert Helfrich ruled to set aside the men's guilty pleas, ending what some described as a 30-year ordeal for the imprisoned men.

Helfrich said the case was marked by a series of tragic events from the violent attack on the woman to the years the men spent in prison for a crime they didn't commit.

"The common thread in this case is tragedy," Helfrich said. Helfrich ruled on a petition filed by the Innocence Project on behalf of Bobby Ray Dixon and Phillip Bivens. He'll rule

later on a posthumous petition for Larry Ruffin, who died in prison in 2002.

The three men were convicted in the 1979 rape and murder of Eva Gail Patterson, whose 4-year-old son watched her be killed.

Dixon, who has lung cancer and a brain tumor, received a medical release from prison last month. He and Bivens were both in court.

"I feel good. I've been blessed," said Dixon, who later added, "I was done wrong. I know that."

Bivens, 59, simply said, "Thank God." Bivens, who arrived at court dressed in a red prison jumpsuit, also said he was ready to return home to California. He was released after the hearing.

Ruffin's family, wearing blue and gray T-shirts that read, "Free at Last," wept and hugged each other. His sister, Teresa Strickland, said she feels her brother has already been cleared. "The DNA cleared my brother when we got the results," she said. "We just can't hug him, but he's free."

The victim's son, Luke Patterson, has always maintained there was a single assailant. The sheriff's department arrested Ruffin first, and months later they apprehended Dixon and Bivens. All three men initially confessed and then recanted.

However, Bivens and Dixon later pleaded guilty to murder in 1980 and were sentenced to life in prison. They testified that Ruffin had actually raped and killed Patterson.

The Innocence Project filed a motion earlier this year to have DNA evidence tested. The semen from a rape kit on Patterson was run through an FBI database that matched it with Andrew Harris, a man already serving a life sentence for a rape that occurred in 1981.

Emily Maw, an Innocence Project attorney, told Helfrich false confessions were not uncommon.

Sixty-three confessions have been proven false through DNA around the country since 1990, she said.

Bivens said he confessed because he didn't want to go to the gas chamber. He said he had been in Mississippi visiting relatives when the crime happened.

Court records show Dixon was considered mentally impaired because he had been kicked in the head by a horse as a child and suffered from seizures and memory loss.

District Attorney Jon Mark Weathers said he's struggled with the case because Bivens and Dixon's statements were used to convict Ruffin. □



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Report: Illegal drug use up sharply last year

WASHINGTON – The rate of illegal drug use rose last year to the highest level in nearly a decade, fueled by a sharp increase in marijuana use and a surge in ecstasy and methamphetamine abuse, the government reported Wednesday.

Gil Kerlikowske, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, called the 9 percent increase in drug use disappointing but said he was not surprised given “eroding attitudes” about the perception of harm from illegal drugs and the growing number of states approving medicinal marijuana.

“I think all of the attention and the focus of calling marijuana medicine has sent the absolute wrong message to our young people,” Kerlikowske said in an interview. The annual report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found marijuana use rose by 8 percent and remained the most commonly used drug. Mike Meno, a spokesman for the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project, said the survey is more proof that the government’s war on marijuana has failed in spite of decades of enforcement efforts and arrests.

“It’s time we stop this charade and implement sensible laws that would tax and regulate marijuana the same way we do more harmful but legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco,” Meno said.

On a positive note, cocaine abuse continues to decline, with use of the drug down 32 percent from its peak in 2006.

About 21.8 million Americans, or 8.7 percent of the population age 12 and older, reported using illegal drugs in 2009. That’s the highest level since the survey began in 2002. The previous high was just over 20 million in 2006.

The survey, which was being released Thursday, is based on

interviews with about 67,500 people. It is considered the most comprehensive annual snapshot of drug use in the United States.

Other results show a 37 percent increase in ecstasy use and a 60 percent jump in the number of methamphetamine users. In the early 2000s, there was a widespread public safety campaign to warn young people about the dangers of ecstasy as a party drug, but that effort declined as use dropped off.

“The last few years, I think we’ve taken our eye off the ball on ecstasy,” Kerlikowske said. Meth use had been dropping after a passage of a 2006 federal law that put cold tablets containing pseudoephedrine behind pharmacy counters. But law enforcement officials have seen a rise in “smurfing,” or traveling from store to store to purchase the medicines, which can be used to produce homemade meth in kitchen labs.

Kerlikowske attributed the rise in meth abuse to more people

getting around the law and an increase in meth coming across the border with Mexico.

The rise in marijuana use comes as California voters prepare to decide in November whether to legalize the drug. An Associated Press-CNBC poll earlier this year found that most Americans still oppose legalizing marijuana, but larger majorities believe it has medical benefits and want the government to allow its use for that purpose.

Medical marijuana sales in the 14 states that allow it have also taken off since the federal government signaled last year that it wouldn’t prosecute marijuana sellers who follow state rules. The survey does not distinguish between medicinal and non-medicinal marijuana use.

The survey found the number of youths aged 12-17 who perceived a great risk of harm from smoking marijuana once or twice a week dropped from 54.7 percent in 2007 to 49.3 percent in 2009. □



A week without Facebook? Pa. college tries it out

HARRISBURG, Pa. – A central Pennsylvania technological college with fewer students than many Facebook users have friends is blacking out social media for a week.

The bold experiment at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology which has drawn praise, criticism and even a jab on late-night TV means students and staff can’t access Facebook, Twitter or a host of other ubiquitous social networks while on campus. Provost Eric Darr said the exercise that began Monday is not a punishment for the school’s 800 students, nor a precursor to a ban, but a way for people to think critically about the prevalence of social media.

The blackout comes on the heels of a report that Web users in the U.S. spend more time socializing on Facebook than searching with Google, according to data released last week from researchers at comScore Inc.

Still, Darr said he can’t believe the controversy generated in the Twitterverse, blogosphere and academia, with some accusing the school of inflicting “a terrible thing and an infringement upon people’s rights.”

“By and large, the students are supportive of the whole exercise and don’t get so worked up over it,” Darr said. □



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GOP tries to bring tea party enthusiasm into fold



Delaware Republican Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell laughs while talking with family members in between television interviews, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010, in Dover, Del. O'Donnell defeated Rep. Mike Castle, R-Del., in Tuesday's primary.

(AP Photo/Rob Carr)

By LIZ SIDOTI,

AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Can this political marriage survive?

More than a half dozen tea party-backed candidates have captured Republican Senate nominations, and now the GOP is trying to bring their rebel supporters' enthusiasm into the fold for November.

Republicans have little choice but to at least put on a show of unity: Alienating the antiestablishment tea party could undercut GOP efforts to

post big Senate gains, perhaps even win control outright.

Judging by how quickly the GOP establishment embraced tea party nominees after earlier primaries, it may not take long for them to consider insurgent Christine O'Donnell one of their own in Delaware. The state's Senate primary was the freshest source of Republican division after O'Donnell's stunning upset of nine-term Rep. Mike Castle. He hasn't yet rallied behind her but others have, including once and maybe future presidential

candidate Mitt Romney.

And, after an initial curt reaction, Sen. John Cornyn's committee to elect Senate Republicans made its support clear. "Let there be no mistake: The National Republican Senatorial Committee — and I personally as the committee's chairman — strongly stand by all of our Republican nominees, including Christine O'Donnell in Delaware," said the Texas lawmaker. He also sent her \$42,000.

The message: The GOP has heard the tea party and is listening.

"Eventually you have to respect the will of the voters," said Delaware's Republican state auditor Tom Wagner, a longtime Castle friend who said the state GOP is still in shock. He said he'd campaign with O'Donnell. It's still not clear how soon — or even if — the state party will unify behind her.

Said a GOP House candidate who lost her primary, Michele Rollins: "We're going to need a little bit of time to kind of settle down. It's pretty shocking to Delaware, because we've never had an outside influence come in and dictate the result."

But there are less than seven weeks to Election Day, and the out-of-power GOP can't afford

to turn off tea party voters who, if they turn out, could carry Republican candidates to victory in six or more Senate races, including Democratic-held states like Colorado, Nevada, Wisconsin, and Delaware. Republicans need to gain 10 seats to take control of the Senate, though even GOP advocates say that's a steep climb. Given the stakes, both Washington and the Delaware Senate candidate were taking steps to bridge the divide quickly.

Cornyn and O'Donnell were planning to meet in the coming days, and she was to speak to social conservatives who make up the GOP's base at the annual values voters gathering in Washington on Friday. She also has been reaching out to establishment figures like former Delaware congressman and governor Pete DuPont.

The one-time presidential candidate said: "She's been calling me, and I'd love to hear what she's thinking."

There are indications that grassroots backers are coming to O'Donnell's aid. Her campaign says that she's raised \$1 million online since Tuesday's primary. But it isn't yet clear whether the establishment support she's getting now goes beyond lip

service. Will the party show her the money?

The Karl Rove-backed outside group American Crossroads has run ads in Kentucky, Colorado and Nevada but hasn't yet weighed in in Delaware. And Cornyn left open the possibility that Delaware may not get more cash, saying: "We will decide where to best allocate additional financial resources among the large number of competitive races at stake this November."

His committee still must calculate whether the conservative O'Donnell, who is being hammered with questions about misstatements and inconsistencies in her background, can defeat county executive Chris Coons and win a Democratic-held seat in a state where the Democrats have the edge in voter registration. O'Donnell managed just 35 percent of the vote in losing to then Senate candidate Joe Biden in 2008.

Early polling shows O'Donnell trailing. The NRSC's money is limited, and Cornyn may decide Republicans have a better shot of picking up Democratic-held states elsewhere.

Still, Cornyn and other longtime party leaders are mindful of the power the tea party is wielding this fall. □

Schwarzenegger tours Calif. gas line blast site

SAN BRUNO, Calif. — Fresh off a weeklong trade mission to Asia, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday made his first official stop at the site of a massive gas line explosion in a San Francisco suburb.

Nearly 40 homes were destroyed and at least four people were killed last week in the San Bruno neighborhood.

Three people are still listed as missing, authorities said. They all lived at the same address, just yards from the source of the blast.

Schwarzenegger held a news conference and was briefed individually by city, state and federal officials, at least one of whom prompted the governor to wipe tears from his eyes. He also talked with some residents and first responders informally, according to a spokeswoman.

When asked why he did not end his trip to Asia and return

immediately to California, Schwarzenegger said he trusted Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado, a fellow Republican and the state's acting governor while Schwarzenegger was out of the country.

The governor said that the day after the explosion, he spoke to President Barack Obama by telephone and requested a federal disaster declaration.

Speaking from a vantage point overlooking a massive crater and destroyed homes, Schwarzenegger credited emergency personnel and others for their fast response.

His backdrop was the charred, barren trees, mangled houses, and a San Bruno fire command vehicle with a map taped on its side showing the blast site, affected homes and state wildfires.

"Every fire expert can tell you that what you do the first few hours is what counts,

and I think they responded quickly those first few hours," Schwarzenegger said.

He did not say if that included PG&E officials, who have been criticized for being slow in turning off a valve controlling the gas.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. President Chris Johns told reporters that manual valves, like the ones workers had to shut in order to close off the flow of natural gas in the pipeline, are used by utilities nationwide.

Johns said the company responded immediately and suggested that heavy traffic might have contributed to a delay in getting the valves closed after the explosion.

Safety is a core company value, he said.

"There is nothing more urgent than maintaining the safety of our pipelines and of our electric lines," Johns said.

The governor took the

microphone back as reporters peppered Johns with questions.

"I will make sure that we will get every single detail," Schwarzenegger said, promising a thorough and open investigation. "I'm back now, and I'm going to drill down into that information."

California state Sen. Leland Yee told The Associated Press after the press conference that it was a "no brainer" that there should have been automatic valves.

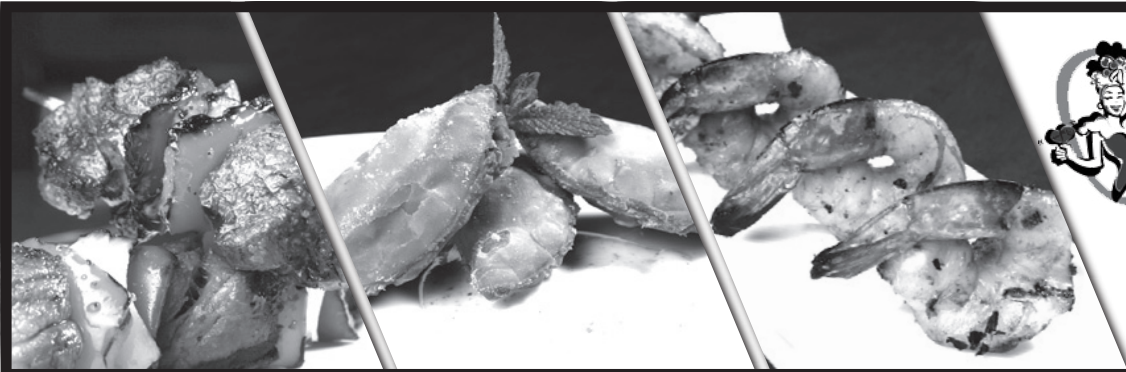
"Their pipes are what we call a high risk area and there ought to have been an automatic shut-off," said Yee, who represents the neighborhood.

NTSB lead investigator for the explosion, Ravindra Chhatre, said the ruptured pipe was "probably two-thirds of the way to Washington D.C.," where it will be tested to determine how and where it was fractured. He provided no further details on the investigation.



San Bruno Mayor Jim Ruane said the city has relocated 271 people and was meeting one-on-one with victims who cannot return to their homes.

Some nearby residents came to hear the governor speak, including Joe Malaspina, 19, whose home was "green flagged," or declared habitable. "I'm not really angry," he said. "PG&E they're doing their best, and I feel maybe this could've been avoided, but it is an accident. It's not like they blew it up purposefully." □



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Gunman kills himself, mother at Baltimore hospital

By ALEX DOMINGUEZ,
Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE — A man who became distraught as he was being briefed on his mother's condition by a surgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital pulled a gun and shot the doctor Thursday, then killed his mother and himself in her room at the world-famous medical center, police said. The doctor, who was wounded in the abdomen, was expected to survive. The gunman, 50-year-old Paul Warren Pardus, had been listening to the surgeon around midday when he "became emotionally distraught and reacted ... and was overwhelmed by the news of his mother's condition," Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld III said. Pardus pulled a semiautomatic gun from his waistband and shot the doctor once, the commissioner said. The doctor,

identified by colleagues as orthopedic surgeon David B. Cohen, collapsed outside the eighth-floor room where Pardus' mother, Jean Davis, was being treated. Pardus then holed up in the room in a more than two-hour standoff that led authorities to lock down a small section of the Nelson Building while allowing the rest of the sprawling red-brick medical complex — a cluster of hospital, research and education buildings — to remain open. When officers made their way to the room, they found Pardus and his mother shot to death, he on the floor, she in her bed. Bealefeld said he did not know what the woman was being treated for at Hopkins, a world-class institution widely known for its cancer research and treatment. It is part of Johns Hopkins University, which has

one of the foremost medical schools in the world. Michelle Burrell, who works in a coffee shop in the hospital lobby, said she was told by employees who were on the floor where the doctor was shot that the gunman was angry with the doctor's treatment of his mother. "It's crazy," she said. Pardus was from Arlington, Va., and had a handgun permit in that state, police said. The gunman was initially identified as Warren Davis, but police later said that was an alias. The wounded doctor, an assistant professor at the medical school, underwent surgery. "The doctor will be OK," police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. "He's in the best place in the world — at Johns Hopkins Hospital." With more than 30,000 employees, the Johns Hopkins



Members of the Baltimore County SWAT team arrive at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore after a man shot and wounded a doctor, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010.

(AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

medical system is Baltimore's biggest private employer. The hospital has more than 1,000 beds and more than 1,700 full-time doctors. The Nelson Building is the main hospital tower. The eighth floor is home to orthopedic, spine,

trauma and thoracic services. Hopkins said it informed its employees about the gunman in an e-mail at 11:30 a.m., about a half-hour after the doctor was shot. They were told to remain in their offices or rooms with the doors locked and to stay away from the windows. At 1:30 p.m., another e-mail went out advising employees that police "are in control of the situation." As the standoff dragged on, people with appointments in other parts of the hospital were encouraged to keep them. Hannah Murtaugh, 25, a first-year student at the nursing school, said her physiology class in an adjacent building was put on lockdown. She said a classmate received a text-message warning from the school about a gunman in the Nelson Building. Her professor interrupted the lecture to let students know. "They just kept telling us to stay away from the windows," she said. "I was scared — wondering if any of my friends or other students who had clinicals that day were on that floor, hoping the situation would be contained, trying to see what was going on while staying away from the windows." She said security personnel helped keep everyone calm and made sure doors were locked.

NC teen: Nose ring more than fashion, it's faith

RALEIGH, N.C. — A soft-spoken 14-year-old's nose piercing has landed her a suspension from school and forced her into the middle of a fight over her First Amendment right to exercise her religion.

Ariana Iacono says she just wants to be a normal teenager at Clayton High School, about 15 miles southeast of Raleigh. She has been suspended since last week because her nose ring violates the Johnston County school system's dress code.

"I think it's kind of stupid for them to kick me out of school for a nose piercing," she said. "It's in the First Amendment for me to have freedom of religion."

Iacono and her mother, Nikki, belong to the Church of Body Modification, a small group unfamiliar to rural North Carolina, but one with a clergy, a statement of beliefs and a formal process for accepting new members.

It's enough to draw the interest of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has contacted school officials with concerns that the rights of the Iaconos are being violated by the suspension.

The Iaconos say the school system is ignoring its own dress code policy, which allows exemptions on religious grounds. The effect, Nikki Iacono, 32, says, is that Johnston County school officials are setting themselves up as judges of what constitutes a "real" religion.

"We pretty much flat-out asked them, what guidelines are you following? What do you need to establish a sincere religious belief?," she said. "We were told that if we were Hindu, or she



were Muslim, it would be different."

On Tuesday, after her first suspension ended, Ariana went back to school with her mother and her nose ring. She was suspended again, this time for five days. If she comes back to school on Sept. 21 with the nose stud, she'll face a 10-day suspension or referral to "alternative schooling," Nikki Iacono said.

A Johnston County schools spokeswoman declined to comment on the situation, saying it's against the law to publicly discuss a particular student's disciplinary matters.

Richard Ivey, the Iaconos' Raleigh-based minister in the church, believes it's a case of officials dismissing something unfamiliar. "They're basically saying, because they don't agree and because they choose not to respect our beliefs, that it can't be a sincerely held religious belief," he said.

Ivey describes the church as a non-theistic faith that draws people who see tattoos, piercings and other physical alterations as ways of experiencing the divine. □



Pope Benedict XVI, right, Britain's Prince Philip, left, and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, center, inspect an honor guard of members of the Royal Company of Archers and members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Band as the Pope arrives at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Thursday Sept. 16, 2010.

Associated Press

SEXSCANDAL

Continued from Front Page

The British media has been particularly hostile to the pope's visit, noting its \$18.7 million (12 million pound) security cost to taxpayers at a time of austerity measures and job losses.

Many in Britain are also strongly opposed to Benedict's hard line against homosexuality, abortion and using condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Protests were planned and "Pope Nope" T-shirts were spotted around London.

Still, a crowd of 125,000 in Edinburgh welcomed Benedict warmly as his Popemobile paraded through the streets, with cheers on Princes Street heard from a mile away and well-wishers waving the Holy See's yellow-and-white flag.

Only around 20 protesters gathered at the designated demonstration spot in Glasgow, where the pope celebrated an afternoon Mass, their complaints ranging from abusive priests to the pope's stance on contraception and homosexuality.

While flying to Britain, Benedict was asked about polls that suggest many Catholics have lost trust in the church as a result of the sex abuse scandals. Benedict said he was shocked and saddened about the scope of the abuse, in part because priests take vows to be Christ's voice upon ordination.

"It's difficult to understand how a man who has said this could then fall into this perversion. It's a great sadness," Benedict said in Italian. "It's also sad that the authority of the church wasn't sufficiently vigilant, and not sufficiently quick or decisive to take necessary measures" to stop it.

He said victims were the church's top priority as it tries to help them heal spiritually and psychologically.

"How can we repair, what can we do to help these people overcome this trauma, find their lives again and find again the trust in the message of Christ?" Benedict said.

He insisted that abusive priests must never again be allowed access to young children, saying they suffer from an illness that "goodwill" cannot cure. In addition, he said,

candidates for the priesthood must be better screened.

The crowds that turned out in Scotland were enthusiastic.

"I've brought my wee girl Laura to see the pope," said James Hegarty, a 42-year-old unemployed Edinburgh resident. "She's only 4, but it's a once in a lifetime chance to see him."

Tens of thousands waved flags and applauded as Benedict arrived in his Popemobile for the Mass in Glasgow. At one point, he rolled down the vehicle's window to kiss a baby dressed all in pink.

Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle warmed up the crowd and then fulfilled a dream of singing before the pope, serenading him with "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace."

In his homily, the 83-year-old pope warned young people against the temptations posed by drugs, money, sex, pornography and alcohol, "which the world tells you will bring you happiness."

The pope's first meeting of the day was with Queen Elizabeth II, both the head of state and head of the Church of England, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, chosen because she spends her summers at Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

The medieval castle is the queen's official residence in Scotland and a potent symbol of the historic divisions that separate Catholics and Anglicans. Mary Queen of Scots lived there during her brief reign as the Catholic queen of Scotland before her execution in 1587 by King Henry VIII's daughter, Queen Elizabeth I.

Henry had broken with Rome earlier in the 16th century, a division followed by centuries in which Catholics were fined, discriminated against and killed for their faith in Britain. At their meeting Thursday, the queen told Benedict his visit reminded all Britons of their common Christian heritage and said she hoped relations between the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church would be deepened as a result. Efforts for closer relations between Catholics and Anglicans have been clouded recently by Benedict's overtures to conservative Anglicans. □



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Filipino says she left newborn on plane: lawmaker

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— A Philippine woman who acknowledged giving birth to a baby on a flight from the Middle East and then leaving him in the trash on the plane said she was raped by her employer, a lawmaker said Thursday.

The baby was found by a security guard at Manila's airport last Sunday in a trash bag unloaded from a Gulf Air flight from Bahrain. The trash apparently came from the plane's bathroom.

Rep. Lani Mercado said she met Thursday with the woman, who told her that she had been raped by her employer while working as a maid in Qatar and became pregnant. She said her employer's wife then forced her to return home, and she managed to hide her pregnancy and board a flight. "She had labor pains in the plane," Mercado told The

Associated Press. "Then she gave birth."

Mercado said the woman told her she abandoned the baby because she was afraid of what her family would say.

Mercado, who serves on legislative committees on children and women, said she met with the woman at Manila's National Bureau of Investigation headquarters to try to help her.

The woman gave birth while the plane was approaching Manila, according to the bureau's chief, Magtanggol Gatdula. The woman has been shown a picture of the child, and "she's very eager to see her baby," he said.

The woman left in June last year to work in Qatar for three years, and her family was surprised when she suddenly returned home, said police Inspector Jeffrey Vicente, quoting her husband in northern Apayao province with whom she has two children.

The six-pound, nine-ounce (three-kilogram) baby — still attached to the placenta — was found wrapped in tissue paper. Airport officials said the baby, already bluish in color, may have died within a few minutes had he not been found.

The baby, temporarily named George Francis after Gulf Air's flight code GF, is now fine but underwent an X-ray because of two bumps on his head, welfare officer Thelsa Biolena said. The results have not yet been released.

The 30-year-old woman was located Wednesday in Apayao after investigators set out to find the person who sat in a bloodstained seat on the plane.

Authorities brought her to Manila for questioning and testing. They did not release her name.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, who has custody of the baby, cautioned that authorities are still working to

confirm that the woman is the mother.

She earlier said authorities plan to conduct DNA tests and that it would take at least a month to establish whether she is the parent.

"We want to be very sure that we won't ascribe this act to the wrong person," Soliman told The Associated Press.

Bahrain-based Gulf Air said in an e-mailed statement Thursday that it provided Filipino investigators access to the plane earlier in the day, so that they could take samples from blood specks for the DNA tests. The airline said it is providing the child with baby food, medicine, diapers and vitamins.

The mother could face criminal charges for abandoning her child, Soliman said.

About 20 couples, including some from abroad, have offered to adopt the boy, she said.

About one in 10 Filipinos



In this photo taken Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010 and released by the Media Affairs Division of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Tuesday, Sept. 14, "George Francis," the baby boy born on a flight from the Middle East to the Philippines and abandoned in an airplane trash bag, sleeps in the airport's clinic in Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press

works abroad, many as domestic workers and laborers in the Middle East, to escape crushing poverty and unemployment at home. □

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Guinea vote delays may stoke ethnic divisions



Soldiers inspect burned voting materials after a warehouse stocking supplies for rural polling stations caught fire, at a military base in central Conakry, Guinea Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010. A critical presidential runoff in Guinea has been postponed by at least two weeks, an official said Thursday, the same day that a warehouse full of voting materials caught fire in the capital, developments that may stoke ethnic divisions at the heart of the vote.

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press Writer

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) — Election officials on Thursday confirmed that a critical presidential runoff in Guinea has been postponed by at least two weeks as the warehouse storing voting materials for the upcoming ballot went up in flames, developments that may stoke ethnic divisions at the heart of the vote.

Passers-by covered their mouths with their T-shirts outside the cement wall of the Camp Samory military barracks where the voting materials were being stored, as the acrid smoke floated over the barbed wire. The fire was burning for more than 40 minutes before the first firetruck arrived and a fireman forced a hose over the wall.

Although the spokesman for the country's election commission said the fire appeared to the result of a short circuit, supporters of leading presidential candidate Cellou Dalein Diallo immediately accused the government of sabotage and of attempting to derail the election which has been postponed multiple times since June.

"Is there such a thing as a place that is more secure than Camp Samory, which houses the chiefs of staff of the army? And

you tell me that in this highly secure site, it is only the voting materials that caught fire? And you want me to believe that this is an accident?" said Mamadou Bah Baadikko, the spokesman for the Alliance Cellou for President. "That's especially hard to do given that they have done everything in their power to once again push back the vote."

Earlier on Thursday, the head of communications of the National Independent Electoral Commission confirmed that Sunday's vote had been postponed because voter ID cards ordered from a printer in South Africa had not yet arrived. "There will be no election on Sunday," Thierno Ceydou Bayo told the AP. "The vote will be delayed by at least two weeks, maybe three."

The delay is likely to heighten tension in the capital, where campaigning was temporarily suspended after violent clashes erupted last week between supporters of rival political parties.

Many had hoped the vote would mark a turning point for the troubled nation of 13.7 million that has known only authoritarian rule since independence from France in 1958. Instead, it appears to have exacerbated ethnic divisions

that have long been lurking beneath the surface of Guinea's political life.

The parties of the two candidates are divided along ethnic lines, pitting the Peul who are the country's largest ethnic group but who have never had one of their own in power, against the Malinke, the ethnicity of the military general overseeing the transition to civilian rule whose members are overwhelmingly represented in the army. Cellou Dalein Diallo — a Peul — got 44 percent of the vote during the race's first round, trouncing second-place finisher Alpha Conde, a Malinke, who received

18 percent.

Relations between the two groups are especially strained following the 1-year-rule of an erratic army captain who seized power in a 2008 coup, and who stacked the government with his relatives and tribal allies from the Forestier and Malinke ethnicities.

When thousands of protesters gathered inside the soccer stadium last Sept. 29 to demand an end to military rule, the junta's presidential guard opened fire, massacring at least 150 people. The protesters were largely Peul and the soldiers attacking them yelled out racial slurs. Women that had Peul features were tracked down and gang raped.

Diallo's party has been calling for the runoff to go ahead for months and they accuse the government of stalling in order to give Conde a chance to catch up in the polls. They claim the interim government is biased toward Conde because he is a Malinke, like Gen. Sekouba Konate, the country's interim president who agreed to hand over power to civilians.

Over the weekend, supporters of the two candidates began hurling rocks at each other, killing one person and injuring 54. Witnesses say that instead of political slogans, the clashing sides yelled racial names.

In a televised address to the nation late Wednesday, Konate said he fears the "republic is in danger" due to ethnic divisions and called on Guineans to put country before tribe. "It's our responsibility ... to not put

ethnicity (and) regionalism ahead of the nation," he said.

Diallo's supporters said they see an ethnic motive behind the multiple delay as well as behind the fire. "They can't stand the thought of a Peul in power," said Ibrahima Balde, a 39-year-old Diallo supporter who is a Peul. "So they are doing everything they can to stop the election from happening."

Election authorities stress the ballots were not harmed and that the fire will not cause further delays to the poll. The portion of the warehouse affected contained the cardboard voting booths erected at polling stations and the tupperware containers in which completed ballots are placed. Pathe Dieng, spokesman for the election commission says that it appears to have been the result of a short circuit after members of the commission asked an electrician to connect the warehouse to the power grid. Representatives of both Diallo and Conde's parties were at the warehouse doing a final check of the materials and they wanted to hook up a computer to help with their work. Electrician Mamadou Drame, 33, who stood on the sidelines as firefighters and soldiers yanked out the tupperware boxes and other materials, says he arrived early in the morning and switched on the power. Then he left to go buy lightbulbs. When he returned, he says he had time to screw in four of the bulbs before he suddenly saw a column of smoke rising from the ground. He ran outside and called for help. □

Reports: Pakistani politician killed in London

LONDON (AP) — A man identified by British media as a senior politician in his native country of Pakistani was killed outside his home in London, police said Thursday. Officers found the 50-year-old man with multiple stab wounds and head injuries outside an address in north London at about 5:30 p.m., police said in a statement.

BBC and Sky News identified him as Imran Farooq, a member of Pakistan's MQM party. Both media outlets reported that Farooq had been living in London since 1992 and had not returned to Pakistan since.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene, police said. No arrests were made and police were investigating the case.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement, based in the southern city of Karachi, is one of

the country's major parties and has a strong anti-Taliban stance. It represents mainly descendants of Urdu-speaking migrants from India who settled in Pakistan when it was created in 1947. Rivals accuse the MQM of exaggerating the threat of the Taliban because of its history of bias against Pashtuns, an estimated two to four million of whom live in Karachi. In a press statement dated 1999 on the party's website, Farooq said he been in hiding since 1992 after the Pakistani government falsely accused him of being a criminal and terrorist. Farooq, who was the party's secretary general at the time, said that prior to escaping to London he had spent more than seven years in hiding in Karachi.

The MQM's office in London did not pick up calls made late Thursday. □

15 die in Somalia as parliament demands government vote

KATHARINE HOURELD

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Mortar rounds fired by suspected Islamist insurgents crashed into Somalia's government complex on Thursday, killing three government soldiers, wounding a member of parliament and triggering a counterattack that killed a dozen more people.

The attack happened while parliament was in session to pass a motion asking leaders of the shaky government to appear within three days for a vote of confidence.

One member of parliament was wounded in the face and five government troops were also hurt. Government and African Union troops responded by firing mortars into the main Bakara Market. At least 12 people were killed and 40 were wounded there,

said Ali Muse, the head of Mogadishu's ambulance service. Among them was a little boy. He lay limply in his older brother's arms as he was rushed into a hospital.

In a hospital run by Burundian peacekeepers, small children flinched as AU and government troops nearby fired their own mortars.

"We need peace so badly," said 17-year-old year old Kalima Abdi, who lay under a blue mosquito net. "The fighting is too much."

Abdi was paralyzed a month ago by a mortar that was fired at an African Union base but landed on her house, killing her seven brothers and sisters. The legislators accuse Somalia's transitional government of failing to perform its duties, including trying to foster peace between the country's warring factions and increasing humanitarian

efforts. A long-running feud between Somali President Sheik Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke has flared again in recent days. Last May Ahmed fired Sharmarke but reversed the decision days later.

The latest rift appears to be about the country's draft constitution, an initiative backed by the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. The prime minister wants the document passed by parliament and civil society representatives while the president wants it put to a referendum.

The new top U.N. envoy to Somalia, Augustine P. Mahiga, told the Security Council at United Nations headquarters in New York on Thursday that a plan to add another 2,000 peacekeeping troops should be "speedily implemented"



A man carry his young brother, to Medina Hospital, Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday, Sept 16, 2010. He got wounded by mortar shrapnel during clashes between Somali insurgents and African Union troops.

to bring the force up to its approved level of 8,000.

"Experience in Somalia has shown that the more delayed or inadequate the response is, the more complex the crisis becomes," Mahiga told the 15-member body. "We have to act in a comprehensive manner to address these complex challenges."

Somalia hasn't had a functioning government since 1991, when warlords

overthrew the president.

The country's most dangerous militant group, the al-Qaida linked al-Shabab, has increased attacks on the government complex and is believed responsible for Thursday's attack. The militants who control much of this Horn of Africa country want to overthrow the government and install a conservative brand of Islam across the country. □



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LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Aruba Birdlife Conservation

Boa Constrictor report presented to Minister Sevinger

ORANJESTAD - On September 15, 2010, Minister of Integration, Infrastructure and Environment, Mr. Benny Sevinger, received the report entitled "An Aruba without Trupial, Prikichi, Patrishi and Shoco? The need for a Boa Control Program." The report was written by Diego Marquez of Parke Arikok Nacional and Greg Peterson president of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. During a meeting held with Minister Sevinger end of August, he requested Marquez and Peterson to compile this document and present it to him as soon as possible. The report describes the exponential growth of the number of boas, the invasive predator in Aruba's wildlife and recommends a two-fold approach to the challenging situation.

On the one hand, the boa challenge should become part of a national invasive exotics policy and a government department should be made responsible for the development and implementation of such policy. But this course of action takes time.

On the other hand, the authors propose to establish a Boa Control Program Task Force, which will carry out two activities before the end of 2010. The proposition entails that a jump-start be made by means of a boa culling activity, to be carried out by a combined effort of professionals and volunteers. Boas would have to be caught through visual detection in order to start reducing their numbers. This culling activity is not an activity on its own, rather a



means to achieve a greater objective, namely to protect and conserve Aruba's endemic fauna from extinction.

The second activity to be carried out before the end of 2010 is a national bird count. The proposed yearly bird count will be used to monitor trends in bird species numbers.

The authors informed the minister of the urgency to act and emphasized that participation of the Government in tackling the invasive species challenges in general and of the Boa constrictor in particular, was desired and very much needed.

In the photograph the moment when Minister Sevinger receives the report from Greg Peterson, president of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. □

Freshwater fish threat to Aruba's waters



BUBALI - After almost a full year after the first 2009 sightings of the Lionfish were reported in Aruba, the island is currently facing another possible threat from invasive fish species but this time the threat comes from fresh water fish. During the past couple of days Aruba has experienced more rain fall than usual due to the tropical weather systems in the Caribbean and this has led to flooding and rising water levels in "Bubali Plas", which is the biggest sanctuary and wetlands area in Aruba.

Bubali Plas contains water throughout the year and this water level goes up and down with rain falls and rising ground water levels. Over a year ago a channel was created between Bubali Plas and the open ocean. This was done in order to "alleviate the flooding of Bubali Plas and surrounding areas during heaving rains and this will drain the excess water through the channel into the ocean. This system is designed so that the public works department must go out to the channel and manually crank the doors open in order to allow the water to drain freely into the ocean. The problem with this system is the fact that any fresh water fish in the Bubali Plas will be drained into the ocean and this is exactly what happened in the night of September 13th, 2010. Because of the rains the doors of the flooding and overflow system was opened and the result is that thousands of fresh water fish have been released by the public works department, which resulted in the ocean. Before the opening, many of these types of fish were not in the channel but once opened, these have now been released and some have stayed in the channel but are dying slowly.

Many of these fish are fresh water fish, which might be able to adapt to the ocean and salt water and become a problem for our salt water marine environment.

Continued on Page A13

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Dutch big band Swing Design in action

Café the Plaza celebrates its 19th anniversary with loads of music

ORANJESTAD - The upcoming 19th anniversary of Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace won't pass unnoticed: a 32-man band will be playing the stars from the sky in celebration. The musical ode will double as a warm-up for the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, which is taking place in the weekend following the anniversary. On Wednesday, October 6, the floor at Café the Plaza is for Swing Design, a big band from Maastricht, Holland. Also expect Dutch snacks and draft beer and another top band that evening.

For those who are not familiar with the band: Swing Design was formed in Maastricht, Holland, in 1983. Its wide repertoire soon gained many fans; its interaction with the audience has become legendary. Although Big Band music saw its peak in the 1920's with superb bands like those of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Harry James, its popularity has declined, but it has never gone out of fashion. Germany can still boast of James Last; the Netherlands of Willy Schobben, Sky Masters and Syd Lawrence. And, of course, Swing Design with conductor Bart Rademakers.

American fans who have been looking forward to seeing Swing design inaction for the sixth consecutive year at the Sun Valley Jazz Jamboree in Idaho, will be in for a disappointment this year: the band is playing on various sunny locations all over the island, culminating in the 4th Caribbean Jazz Festival at the Cas di Cultura. □



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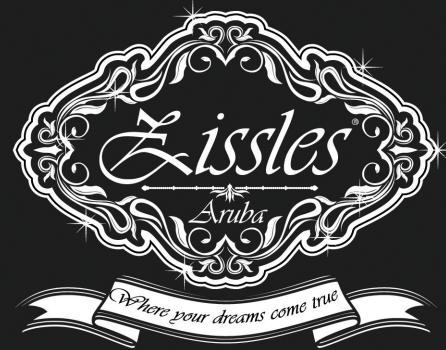
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Espinosa has prepared two holiday buffet menus and an eight-course plated dinner menu, ensuring that your guests will enjoy a fantastic culinary experience, no matter what your budget is. To go along with your Christmas dinner menu, you will be able to choose from several banquet open bar options.

What makes the Radisson unique is that the resort also offers a variety of settings and venues for your planned event. Small groups of 15-20 people can enjoy an end-of-the-year evening celebration in the resort's exclusive Plaza Club, located on the eighth floor, while groups of up to 30 can enjoy the privacy of their own banquet room.

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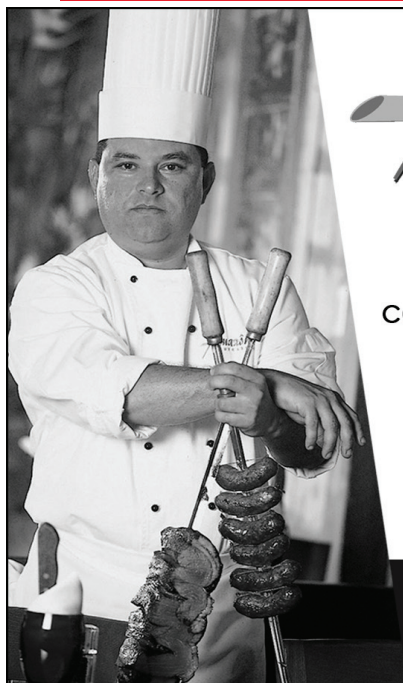
The Radisson will also provide complimentary valet parking for all your guests, a complimentary welcome Larimar Spa cocktail, a special room rate including two breakfasts per room on the night of your function and a weekend stay at the Radisson Aruba if you book groups of 250 or more.

Since this is the season for giving, the Radisson Aruba is getting things started by also providing two dinners for two at Laguna Restaurant, and two Radisson Aruba pool and beach passes, including lunch for two at Gilligans, to raffle

during the party.

The Radisson Aruba encourages everyone to book early, so if you reserve your Christmas event before Thursday, September 30th, you will also receive a complimentary Oyster Soup at midnight, during your evening event.

To give its local clients a little taste of what they can expect for the holidays, the Radisson will be hosting a special Christmas in September event. 'Tis the season to be jolly, especially when you celebrate it at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. □



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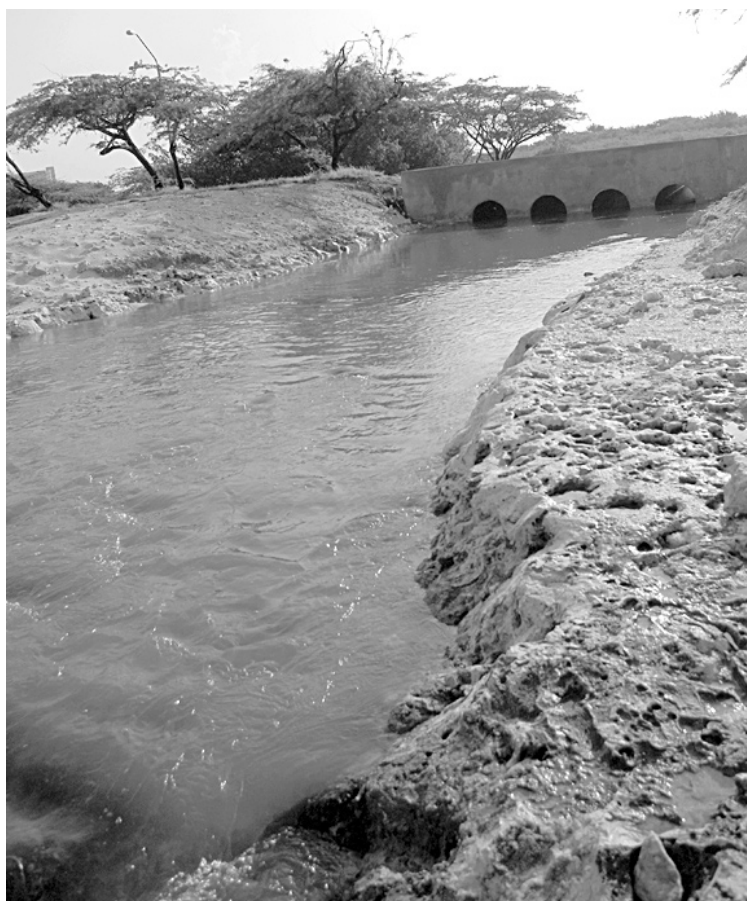
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Freshwater fish threat to Aruba's waters



Continued from Page A10

In the past, LVV, the government department of agriculture, fisheries and live stock has allowed the placement of Guppies and Tilapia in order to combat problems with mosquitoes in dams, salinas and Bubali Plas. Over the years however, many other fresh water fish have found their ways into the Bubali Plas. Currently the "escaped"

fish have agglomerated just at the entrance/exit area of the channel. This might be because the fresh water is still mixing with the salt water, which makes it tolerable for the fish and ideal for them to acclimate. Marine biologists and one oceanographer have collected some species and found between them, Tilapias of all sizes, American eels of all sizes, Snook and two other

species so far unidentified also varying from different sizes. Thousands of fish are on the coast line edge and the next couple of days will determine if they will survive and adapt or if this will become a massive death toll for the fish. Implementation of this overflow system was done without consulting with marine biologists and there was no study done

on the Bubali Plas in order to see what species of fish live there and come with a better system, which might have included a filter system where the fish would be caught in a separate basin and released back into Bubali Plas, while the filtered water can flow to the ocean with introducing any fresh water species into the ocean by the thousands.

Second, the water coming from the Bubali Plas or going from the ocean into the Plas with high tide may be harmful for marine live or the fresh water habitats within the Bubali Plas. Within less than 24 hours many of the fresh water fish died in the channel.

Implementation of an Aruba Marine Park might help with such problems, but at the moment this will be a possible marine environmental disaster if all these fish die or if they adapt, which at this point nobody has any idea what the consequences are going to be if these fish get onto the coral reef systems. If we do not control this now, we will have the same type of situation like with the Lionfish and



Boa, which in both cases nothing has been done to at least control the situation. The government must act now on this fresh water invasion, which is caused by government sanctioned released of these

species.

Another heavy rain fall with flooding might release other thousands of these species into the ocean if the government doesn't find or implement a filter system soon. □



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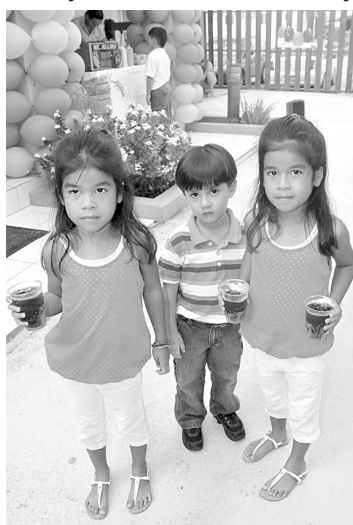
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Kiziah celebrates 1st birthday with bash!



WAYACA - Kimberley and Jean-Marc Ras recently celebrated their daughter Kiziah's first birthday with family and friends at the Party



Center in Wayaca. Everyone enjoyed lots of fun, games, snacks and cake. Kiziah had the time of her life with all of her friends and colorful decorations. Her favorite part was licking the icing off the cupcakes. Congratulations to Kiziah and her parents Kimberley and Jean-Marc. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Aruba refinery restart delayed

Continued from Front Page

The Aruba work includes a rebuild and replacement of a main flare unit, without which the refinery cannot operate at capacity, Day said.

Other electrical work and structural assessments are under way as well, he said.

Klesse gave no update on Valero's talks to sell its 160,000-bpd refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey. The company sold its 182,200-bpd Delaware City, Delaware, refinery in June after shutting it in November last year because of poor economics.

Klesse said demand, while sluggish in the United States, would grow globally.

"We are having a very slow economic recovery, but it is going to grow again as people go back to work," he said.

He said refining margins, which plummeted in 2009 amid the global economic downturn, were improving this year and would continue to do so in 2011.

Klesse attributed the improvement to better discounts for heavy, sour crude, which is more complicated to process than higher-cost light, sweet crude.

He said supply of heavy, sour crudes from Latin America had been better than expected, and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries was increasing output.

In the long term, Gulf Coast refineries with coking ability can count on steady Canadian crude supply by 2013, he said.

That is when TransCanada Corp could finish expanding its Keystone oil sands crude pipeline to ship 510,000 bpd to the Gulf Coast from the storage hub of Cushing, Oklahoma. □



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FILE - This June 28, 2008, file photo shows U.S. national swim team head coach Mark Schubert answering questions during a news conference before the start of the US Olympic swimming trials in Omaha, Neb. Schubert has taken a leave of absence from his post as head coach of the U.S. national swim team. USA Swimming spokeswoman Jamie Olsen said Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, that she's unable to comment on the reasons for Schubert's leave because it's a personnel matter.

Associated Press

National swim coach Schubert takes leave

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — In another stunning blow to one of America's most powerful Olympic sports, Mark Schubert has taken at least a two-month leave of absence from his post as coach of the national swim team.

USA Swimming spokeswoman Jamie Olsen said Thursday she was unable to comment on the reasons for Schubert's leave because it's a personnel matter.

Schubert's departure comes as the governing body holds its national convention in Dallas, where it's expected to vote on measures to strengthen athlete protection in the wake of numerous allegations of sexual abuse involving coaches and underage swimmers.

Continued on Page B8

SPORTS VIEW

Unthinkable in Europe



Ines Sainz, a reporter for the Mexican network TV Azteca, gestures while working on the sideline during the second quarter of an NFL football between the New York Jets and the Baltimore Ravens at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Monday, Sept. 13, 2010. Jets owner Woody Johnson said Monday that he apologized to Sainz for his players' reported treatment of her during and after practice Saturday.

*Associated Press
Page B2*

Rafael Nadal clinches year-end No. 1 ranking

LONDON (AP) — Rafael Nadal has clinched the year-end No. 1 ranking for the second time in three years.

The Spaniard, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2010, also finished at the top of the ATP rankings in 2008.

Nadal says "it has been an incredible season — one of my best ever, if not the best."

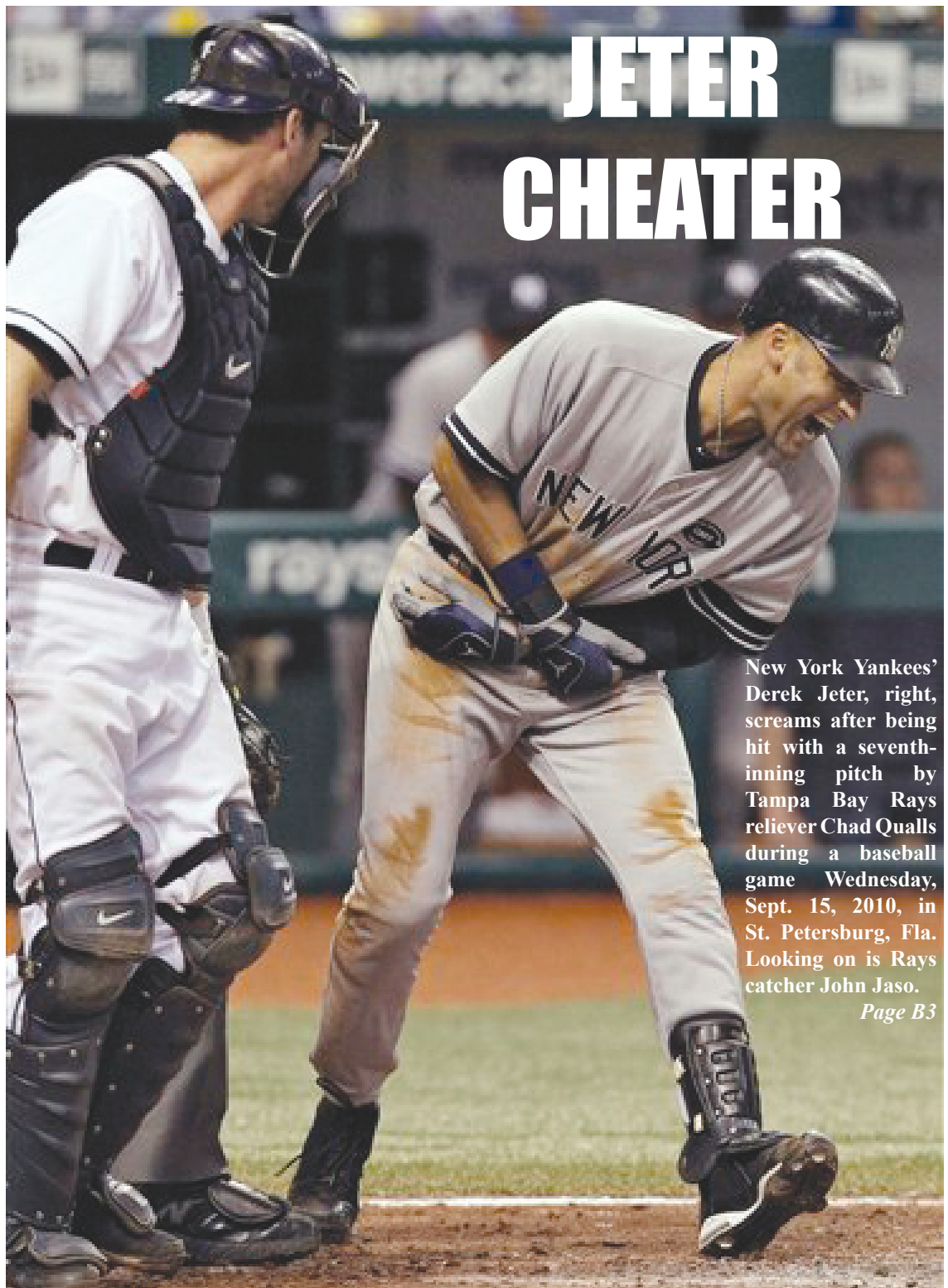
He says "I worked very hard to get back to the top and it feels really good to know I will end the year as No. 1."

Nadal, Ivan Lendl and Roger Federer are the only players to have held, lost and regained the year-end No. 1 spot in the 37-year history of the rankings. Federer did it last year. □



Rafael Nadal of Spain bites his trophy after beating Novak Djokovic of Serbia to win the men's championship match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 13, 2010.

Associated Press



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter, right, screams after being hit with a seventh-inning pitch by Tampa Bay Rays reliever Chad Qualls during a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Looking on is Rays catcher John Jaso.

Page B3

Sportsview

NFL locker-room flap almost unthinkable in Europe

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Columnist

PARIS (AP) — Viewed from Europe, the story making news in American football this week of the New York Jets players who disgraced themselves by directing “Whooo-weee!” catcalls at a television reporter working in their locker room is bizarre and alien.

Ines Sainz’s embarrassment is easy to understand and empathize with. And even on this side of the Atlantic, we grasped enough of the subsequent debate to disagree with those in the United States who argued that Sainz, of Mexico’s TV Azteca, perhaps invited trouble by dressing too sexily. That can never be an excuse for such boorishness.

But reporters in the dressing room? What folly is that?

To those who work in sports outside of the United States that jealously guard the privacy of locker rooms, the liberal access for reporters covering U.S. leagues is unthinkable and a recipe for problems or, depending on your point of view, the way of the future.

In the English Premier League, at the football World Cup, in international cricket or at the Olympic Games, Sainz — or any reporter — would never have been given access to the locker room. Nor will that change any time soon. Manchester United



This Jan. 27, 2009, file photo shows TV Azteca reporter Ines Sainz, left, after measuring the bicep of Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Steve Breaston, right, during the team’s media day for Super Bowl XLIII, in Tampa, Fla. Sainz says on her Twitter account she felt “very uncomfortable!” at a Jets practice Saturday where a coach appeared to throw footballs in her direction and players called out to her in the locker room.

boss Alex Ferguson will have retired long before a reporter ever gets to see him unleash one of his famous “hairdryer” locker-room rants at a player who has angered him.

“Our managers would say that the dressing room is sacrosanct,” says Premier League publicity manager Philip Dorward. “It will be a long time before that one comes to these shores. There’s no call for it.”

Ditto for the Olympic Games. “I can’t imagine it,”

says International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams. “One can never say never but it is extremely unlikely to be considered.”

Same for the World Cup. “How can you open access to hundreds of journalists?” asks FIFA spokesman Nicolas Maingot. “It would be absolutely impossible for you to work in there.”

“There’s also, of course, the necessity of the privacy of the team,” he says. Post-match happenings in the locker room — celebrations, sadness, tactical post-mortems, etc. — “are privileged moments which should be reserved for the teams.”

One argument cited in Europe is that reporters don’t need to enter locker rooms because they can speak to coaches and players in press conferences and in “mixed zones” the athletes walk through before or after they shower and change. There are no such zones in team sports in the United States. Instead, NFL locker rooms open to journalists of both sexes and to cameras from 10 minutes after a game, and from 15 minutes after a game in baseball.

Another reason cited outside

the United States is that locker rooms are often too small to accommodate reporters. For example, they hold “at a squeeze, 25-30 people, absolute max” at Lords, the London home of cricket, says James Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the sport’s governing body, the ICC.

Cricket also wants to prevent any contacts between match-fixers and players or any leaks of information from within teams that could be valuable to gambling syndicates, such as when a player might bat. Allegations that Pakistan players may have acted in cahoots with fixers are a current concern. Under ICC rules, only players, team staff and a handful of others are allowed into dressing rooms. Former Chelsea winger Pat Nevin says that in football, players would want locker rooms kept shut because they don’t trust the reporters who cover them. British tabloids are especially ruthless in exposing the unsavory sides of players’ lives, like the recent claims that Man United striker Wayne Rooney paid prostitutes for sex.

Footballers “would want the journalists kept as far away as

possible,” says Nevin. Locker room access for reporters in the Premier League would be “laughable” and “so far beyond what is imaginable,” he says.

But there is the beginning of change in Italy’s top league. For the first time this season, broadcaster Sky is showing short footage, although still no interviews, from inside dressing rooms before matches. When newly promoted Cesena opened its season against AS Roma, in its first Serie A match for 20 years, Sky showed a minute beforehand of the players looking extremely nervous and taut in their locker room.

“It was incredible, one minute of pure fear,” says Sky publicity manager Flavio Natalia. “It’s strange for Italy because up until now the locker rooms were like temples, we did not know what happened inside.”

Even so, that is still a long way from U.S. reporters going en masse inside locker rooms after games and, in baseball, even before — regardless of the fact that players may still be changing or even naked. And in 1998, for example, Associated Press reporter Steve Wilstein spotted in Mark McGwire’s locker that the baseball star had a brown bottle of testosterone-producing pills on the top shelf, next to a can of Popeye spinach and packs of sugarless gum.

With the exception of rugby, where locker room access is sometimes granted, reporters in Europe rarely get that close.

But perhaps they should. Gianni Merlo, president of the International Sports Press Association, a grouping of sports journalists’ associations founded in 1924 during the Olympic Games in Paris, argues that it might perhaps have been harder for officials in the former East Germany to have hidden their doping of athletes had reporters been given greater access.

“To close the door sometimes is also to hide something,” he says. □

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Yankee sleight of hand: Derek deke? Jeter cheater?

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Derek Jeter has a bit part in a box-office hit, and he's putting those acting skills to good use.

The New York Yankees captain, with a cameo in the Will Ferrell comedy "The Other Guys," gave an Oscar-worthy performance by pretending to get hit by a pitch in a pennant race game Wednesday night.

Howling, hopping and hurting — seemingly, anyway — Jeter even got the team trainer to examine his left arm. And then the All-Star often hailed as a model of good sportsmanship took his base.

More like stole it, fans in Tampa Bay hollered.

"Jeter cheater!" they chanted. Replays clearly showed what really happened: Chad Qualls' fastball squarely struck the knob of Jeter's bat, not him. But Major League Baseball doesn't use instant replay in these situations.

For more than a century, ballplayers have tried to bend the rules. Pitchers throw spitballs, outfielders fake catches on balls that bounce, shortstops make phantom tags. This isn't golf, where players are expected to call penalties on themselves.

Coming off the Steroids Era, where cheating often meant illegal performance-enhancing drugs, some actually found a charm in Jeter's old-fashioned chicanery.

Yet seeing the squeaky-clean

Jeter involved in Yankee hanky-panky was startling. So was his response. Asked where the ball hit, he readily admitted his sleight of hand.

"The bat," he said, without apology. "It's part of the game."

To his legion of admirers, Derek's deke was a savvy play. The bat flew, he spun around, doubled over and convinced the home-plate umpire he'd been plunked. He wound up scoring a key run in the seventh inning.

To Jeter's detractors, it was a cheap trick. Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon argued so much he got ejected, though he praised Jeter after the Rays rallied past the Yankees 4-3 into first place in the AL East. "There's several thespians throughout baseball," Maddon said. "I thought Derek did a great job, and I applaud it, because I wish our guys would do the same thing."

Both the Yankees and Rays were off Thursday, but Jeter Theater played throughout the majors.

On the Cincinnati Reds' telecast of their game against Arizona — a matchup with no direct connection to what occurred at Tropicana Field — there was a fan text poll with this question: Are you OK with the Derek Jeter play? Fans were split on whether it was gamesmanship or farce.

Batters often try to pretend they've been hit by pitches that just miss; it's something they're taught to do. But it

usually takes them a split-second to start acting, and that rarely tricks the umps.

Jeter, however, got right in character, especially after the ball hit the bat and sent vibrations up his arm. He fooled home-plate umpire Lance Barksdale, then managed to sneak a peek to watch Maddon's dispute.

"What can you do? My job is to get on base. He said it hit me, so I'm not going to argue with him," Jeter said.

A former World Series MVP, the 36-year-old Jeter currently is stuck in one of the worst slumps of his career. With his team trailing by a run, he would take anything.

"I've been hit before when they said it hit the bat. It goes both ways," he said.

While the four umpires huddled to discuss the call, Maddon was certain the ball had nicked Jeter's bat and rolled out near the pitcher's mound. Maddon told Qualls to retrieve the ball and throw to first base, to get Jeter out. No chance.

"Nobody could tell me that the ball hit his hand, in any way, shape or form, or his wrist. But everybody could tell me that the ball hit the bat," Maddon said. "I really hoped the play would be reversed based on pure, pure logic."

No luck there, either.

"Basically it hit the knob and it was a fair ball, and he was out at first. That's all there is to it," Qualls said. "He's Derek Jeter, but you know what?



Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon, left, argues with home plate umpire Lance Barksdale after Barksdale ruled New York Yankees' Derek Jeter was hit with a seventh-inning pitch from Rays' Chad Qualls during a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Maddon was later ejected.

Associated Press

It's still the game of baseball play that should have been and he was out, and that's the called."□

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Rays back on top of Yankees after 4-3 win



Tampa Bay Rays' Dan Johnson follows the flight of his fifth-inning, two-run home run off New York Yankees starting pitcher Phil Hughes during a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays regained top spot in the seesawing race for the American League East crown by beating the New York Yankees 4-3 on Wednesday.

AL Roundup

The teams with baseball's top two records flip-flopped

positions in the standings for the third straight night. The first two games of the series went extra innings, with the Rays winning 1-0 on Monday and the Yankees regaining the division lead by a half-game with an 8-7 win on Tuesday.

Dan Johnson hit a pair of two-run homers Wednesday

off Phil Hughes (16-8), who gave up a two-out single then allowed Johnson's second shot in the seventh. New York had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the seventh via Curtis Granderson's two-run homer off Chad Qualls (1-0).

The Yankees and Rays will play four more games in New York next week, with Tampa Bay holding an 8-6 edge in the season series.

Twins 9, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Minnesota took a commanding eight-game lead in the AL Central with a victory over Chicago. With 17 games left for both teams, Minnesota has all but secured the division, having won 10 of its past 11 games and boasting baseball's best record in the second half of the season.

Twins catcher Joe Mauer had three hits, including a three-run homer.

Minnesota starter Brian Duensing (9-2) pitched six innings, allowing two runs. Since being promoted to the rotation in late July, he is 6-1 as a starter.

Rangers 11, Tigers 7

In Arlington, Texas, the hosts extended their winning streak to seven games by beating Detroit.

In what might have been their last home game before clinching the division title, the Rangers built an 8-2 lead in the fourth on David Murphy's three-run homer. The blast into the

second deck in right ended the night prematurely for Tigers starter Armando Galarraga (4-6), who had already allowed Vladimir Guerrero's homer to start the second.

Ian Kinsler also went long for Texas, while starter Colby Lewis (11-12) went six innings for the win.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Boston completed a three-game sweep of Seattle.

Red Sox starter Clay Buchholz (16-7) allowed one run — a first-inning homer — in his first victory in more than three weeks. He lowered his ERA to 2.48, second in the AL.

Victor Martinez hit a two-run double for Boston, which has quietly crept within six games of the wild card after it had appeared its season was over.

The Mariners have lost seven straight.

Royals 6, Athletics 3

In Kansas City, Wilson Betemit hit his first career grand slam as Kansas City beat Oakland.

Betemit worked a full count from Trevor Cahill and fouled off the next three pitches before homering just inside the right-field pole. That snapped Cahill's 15-inning scoreless streak. Royals starter Bruce Chen (10-7), who was 1-13 from 2007-09, went five innings, allowing three runs.

Orioles 3, Blue Jays 1

In Baltimore, Brad Bergesen gave up only one run in his third career complete game, steering Baltimore past Toronto.

Bergesen (7-10), who did not issue a walk, came in with a 6.99 ERA in five career starts against the Blue Jays, but dominated this one after yielding a solo homer in the first inning. That homer came from Jose Bautista, who has a majors-leading 47 for the season.

Bergesen was aided by two double plays, and the Orioles threw out a runner at the plate.

Baltimore swept the three-game series.

In Cleveland, Jered Weaver, staked to a seven-run lead after two innings, earned his first win in more than a month as Los Angeles beat Cleveland.

Weaver (12-11) retired 21 of the 22 batters he faced over seven innings to snap the longest losing streak of his career at four games. He struck out seven to take over the AL lead with 218. He retired the first 11 men he faced until a single in the fourth.

In other AL games it was Boston 5, Seattle 1; L.A. Angels 7, Cleveland 0; Baltimore 3, Toronto 1; Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Yankees 3; Texas 11, Detroit 7; Minnesota 9, Chicago White Sox 3; and Kansas City 6, Oakland 3. □



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Tulowitzki powers Rockies over Padres, 9-6

DENVER (AP) — Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki had his third multihomer game in a little more than a week, setting a career high with seven RBIs to help the Rockies beat the San Diego Padres 9-6 on Wednesday, tightening the National League West race. NL Roundup Tulowitzki, who has 11 homers in his past 13 games, hit a pair of three-run homers and an RBI single as Colorado avoided a series sweep and moved back within 2-1/2 games of the NL West-leading Padres, and the same distance from wild-card holder Atlanta.

Rockies starter Jorge De La Rosa (8-4) gave the beleaguered bullpen a break by pitching into the eighth and taking the win. San Diego starter Clayton Richard (12-8) gave up a season-worst eight runs in three innings.

Phillies 10, Marlins 5

In Miami, Philadelphia beat Florida to extend its NL East lead to three games. Philadelphia starter Roy Halladay (19-10) struck out nine to defeat Florida for the fourth time this season. That took his season strikeout tally to a career-high 210 — 41 against the Marlins — and became the Phillies first 19-game winner since John Denny in 1983.

Philadelphia, which swept a three-game series at Florida for the second time this season, is 17-3 away from home since Aug. 1.

The win, combined with Atlanta's loss to Washington, gave the two-time defending NL champions their largest division lead since May.

The Marlins used six pitchers, all relievers. Jorge Sosa (2-3) got the loss.

Giants 2, Dodgers 1

In San Francisco, Matt Cain pitched seven shutout innings to guide San Francisco past Los Angeles.

Cain (12-10) walked none and didn't allow a runner to get past first base. Brian Wilson allowed a two-out homer in the ninth before getting his 43rd save in 47 chances.

Mike Fontenot broke a scoreless tie with a two-out

RBI single in the seventh inning. It was San Francisco's first run of the series and ended a streak of 29 2-3 innings without an earned run against Chad Billingsley (11-10).

Billingsley allowed six hits in seven innings. He lost to San Francisco for the first time in five starts this season but still has an 0.74 ERA against the Giants in 2010.

San Francisco moved within half a game of first-place San Diego in the NL West. San Francisco is also half a game behind Atlanta in the wild-card race.

In Atlanta, Washington handed Atlanta only its second home series loss of the season.

Light-hitting Justin Maxwell hit a grand slam off rookie pitcher Mike Minor (3-1) in the second inning.

Nationals starter John Lannan (8-7) gave up two runs in six innings to take the win.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Cincinnati, the hosts' deep bullpen held off Arizona with the help of a homer-saving catch by Jay Bruce.

Five relievers teamed up

to pitch six innings of two-run ball in support of starter Homer Bailey, who left the game after three innings with dizziness. Matt Maloney (1-2) got the win.

Bruce made a running, leaping catch in the corner to rob Adam LaRoche of a tying homer, ending the game. Drew Stubbs had a homer for the Reds.

Arizona starter Joe Saunders (2-6) allowed seven runs, four earned, in 7 1-3 innings.

In St. Louis, Chicago beat the sliding Cardinals to complete their first three-game sweep in St. Louis since 1988.

Carlos Zambrano (9-6) allowed only one earned run in six innings, improving to 6-0 with a 1.37 ERA in his past seven starts. He is 7-1 with a 1.29 ERA in 12 starts in St. Louis.

Tyler Colvin hit a three-run homer for the Cubs.

Chicago has won five straight in St. Louis for the first time since 1983.

In Houston, Mat Gamel hit the go-ahead double in the 10th inning as Milwaukee



Colorado Rockies' Troy Tulowitzki, right, is congratulated by Carlos Gonzalez after hitting a three-run home run in the third inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres at Coors Field in Denver on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010. Tulowitzki drove in 7 runs, leading the Rockies to a 9-6 win.

Associated Press

beat Houston to avoid a series sweep.

With the game tied 6-6, Carlos Gomez singled off Matt Lindstrom (2-5), stole second and took third on an error. Gamel doubled in Gomez, advanced on a wild pitch and scored on a single.

In other NL games it was

Washington 4, Atlanta 2; Milwaukee 8, Houston 6, 10 innings; Colorado 9, San Diego 6; Cincinnati 7, Arizona 5; Philadelphia 10, Florida 5; N.Y. Mets 8, Pittsburgh 7; Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 3; and San Francisco 2, L.A. Dodgers 1.

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French anti-doping boss to collaborate with probe



In this March 6, 2009 file photo, French anti-doping agency (AFLD) president Pierre Bordry is seen at a news conference, in Paris. The head of France's anti-doping agency is ready to collaborate fully with a U.S. federal investigation into seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. Bordry said Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, he will hand over Armstrong's "B" samples from the 1999 Tour to Jeff Novitzky if the Food and Drug Administration agent makes an official request.

Associated Press

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — The head of France's anti-doping agency is ready to collaborate fully with a U.S. federal investigation into seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. Pierre Bordry said Thursday he will hand over Armstrong's "B" samples from the 1999 Tour to Jeff Novitzky if the Food and Drug Administration agent makes an official request. French sports daily L'Equipe reported in 2005 that Armstrong's backup "B" samples from 1999 contained EPO — a banned blood-boosting hormone. Armstrong was later cleared by an independent panel.

Novitzky and a federal prosecutor have been handling an inquiry into allegations of organized doping in professional cycling, including whether Armstrong and members of his United States Postal Service

team may have been involved. Six of Armstrong's record seven Tour wins came with the team.

Speaking at a news conference about drug testing in France, Bordry said he is impressed by the work done by Novitzky and the U.S. anti-doping agency in Armstrong's case.

"They can ask us anything, we will do it," Bordry said. "We can either send them the samples or do the testing ourselves."

After Armstrong announced his comeback to competition two years ago, Bordry offered him the chance to retest his urine samples from the 1999 Tour in order to quash the doping allegations but the American rejected the offer.

There was no reliable test for EPO in 1999, but urine samples were preserved and analyzed later when the technology was available.

Bordry said he was not allowed to

order a retest of the samples because of the eight-year statute of limitations in the World Anti-Doping Agency code.

Bordry, however, said U.S. federal prosecutors wouldn't be subject to this rule as they are not working on a disciplinary case.

Armstrong has always denied he used performance-enhancing drugs during his record Tour wins from 1999-05. He capped his return to competition with a third-place finish in the 2009 race and competed in what he said was his last Tour last July.

Armstrong, who faced doping accusations since his first Tour win after beating testicular cancer, became a central figure in the federal probe after former teammate Floyd Landis admitted he had doped and alleged that Armstrong used banned drugs during his career.

Landis won the Tour in 2006 but was stripped of his title for doping. □



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MACHETE daily: 6:00 - 8:30 matinee: 12:30 - 3:15 late show: 11:00	THE AMERICAN daily: 6:00 - 8:30 matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 late show: 11:00
NANNY MC PHEE RETURNS daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:30	AVATAR SPECIAL EDITION 3D daily: 12:00 - 3:45
RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D daily: 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 12:00	TAKERS daily: 6:45 - 9:15 matinee: 12:00 late show: 12:00
THE EXPENDABLES daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:15 matinee: 1:15 late show: 11:30	PIRANHA 3D daily: 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 11:45 late show: 11:45
AVATAR SPECIAL EDITION 3D daily: 12:00 - 3:45 matinee: 11:15	LOTTERY TICKET daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:15
PIRANHA 3D daily: 6:45 - 9:00 matinee: 11:15	RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D daily: 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 11:00 late show: 11:00
CATS & DOGS GALORE 3D daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 late show: 11:15	THE OTHER GUYS daily: 12:00 - 2:30 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:15
GOING THE DISTANCE daily: 6:45 - 9:00 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:15	GOING THE DISTANCE daily: 4:15 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:15

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AQUARIUS

Kyle Busch, Hamlin downplay NASCAR feud

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

NEW YORK – The first sign of a lingering discord between Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch came after their 1-2 finish at Richmond, when Busch made sure to point out how clean he raced his teammate with the win on the line.

A second verbal volley was lobbed during an episode of Busch's ESPN weeklong reality special, when he made mention of how difficult it is to have a discussion with Hamlin. Fans for sure noticed the back-to-back jabs, and speculation mounted that Joe Gibbs Racing's two championship contenders were at odds.

Turns out, it's much ado about nothing.

"I was just making a point," Busch said Wednesday during NASCAR's annual visit to New York to promote the upcoming Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

"There was an opportunity for me to get in there and get dirty, knock him out of the way, but I thought better of it. We all want momentum going into the Chase, not another something

to be fighting about."

The relationship between the two JGR stars will be critical to manage over the next 10 weeks. The teams rely on each other for information and advice during at-track debriefs, and Busch's crew gleaned an important tip from Hamlin's crew right before Saturday night's race at Richmond that contributed to the 1-2 finish. Managing and maintaining that information flow will be the best shot either JGR driver has at dethroning four-time defending NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson.

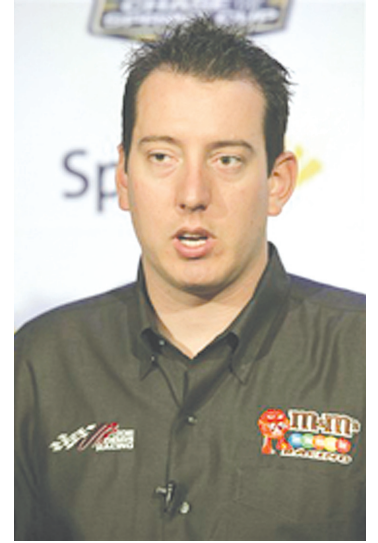
But there's no denying the relationship has had its swings, most notably earlier this season after a wreck between the two in the All-Star race and Busch vented over his radio "I swear to God, I am going to kill (him)."

It led to an immediate post-race closed-door meeting with owner Joe Gibbs, and the issue seemed to be settled. Then Hamlin fanned the flames a week later in one of the more entertaining press conferences in years.

"Each year I think Kyle's going to grow up and he just



Denny Hamlin holds up six fingers for his sixth win of the year, following his victory in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Richmond International Raceway in Richmond, Va., Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010; and Kyle Busch speaks to reporters during the NASCAR visit to New York, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010. The Chase for the Sprint Cup championship starts Sunday in New Hampshire.



doesn't," Hamlin said that day. "Until he puts it all together, that's when he'll become a champion, and right now he just doesn't have himself all together."

Gibbs helicoptered into the track to be present for qualifying later that day, and the teammates have been fairly quiet off the track since. During a visit Wednesday to The Associated Press headquarters, Hamlin said there's no issues between the two.

"I think Kyle just has different ways of expressing the way he feels about things," Hamlin said.

"We have personalities that can be difficult to get through to at times, and a lot of it is just you are afraid to go up to your teammate or another driver and talk about (racing issues).

Me and Kyle have never really had that talk, but I feel like except for the All-Star race, our on-track relationship has been good. Never been

any altercations, never really raced each other that hard. And I think what he was doing was just trying to prove a point and show that he's a clean teammate."

Busch and Hamlin have been two of the best drivers all season.

Hamlin heads into the Chase opener Sunday at New Hampshire as the top-seed. Busch, a three-time winner this season, is 30 points behind Hamlin. Racing for the win Saturday night at Hamlin's home track, Busch could have moved his teammate in an effort to win the race and grab the final 10 bonus points.

But he stayed in line, settled for second, and talked about it after the race.

Would that change with the championship on the line?

"If it does, it's going to be no-holds barred," he said. "If it comes down to me having to win the race in order to win the championship or if he wins the race he wins the championship, it's going to be whatever happens."

In the same breath, though, Busch revealed a clear understanding of the big picture.

"If it comes down to where he wins the race and I finish second, it's going to be an awfully disappointing night for (my) team, but yet a very exciting one for (his)."

Both are quick to credit each other for where they are right now, and it will be interesting to see how it plays out over the next 10 weeks. □

Falcons to honor Gonzalez for 1,000th reception

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—Atlanta was on the road when Tony Gonzalez (notes) became just the seventh NFL player to catch 1,000 passes, so the Falcons will honor him at the home opener.

The team has declared Sunday as "Tony Gonzalez Day" at the Georgia Dome. Owner Arthur Blank, team president Rick McKay and general manager Thomas Dimitroff will take part in a brief ceremony before the game against the Arizona Cardinals.

There also will be a video montage commemorating the historic catch and Gonzalez's brilliant 14-year career.

In addition, fans are encouraged to wear their No. 88 jerseys. For those who don't have one, the Falcons are knocking off the price of Gonzalez attire by 50 percent, both on merchandise sold at the stadium and through their website.

"What an honor," Gonzalez said. "I'm kind of telling them, 'Hey, not too much.' I just don't want it to distract myself or any of my teammates. But I'm honored by it. It's a humbling thing and I'm really appreciative."

Gonzalez said he'll have about 15 family members at the game, including his wife, 9-year-old son, parents and several cousins. "I'm going to get hit in the pocket, but it's worth it," he said.

Actually, Gonzalez's biggest expense will be flying in two fans from Ohio who won a contest he ran on Twitter to commemorate his 1,000th catch. In addition to airfare, they'll get tickets to the game, a hotel room for two nights, a rental car, an autographed football and a pair of gloves that he wears in the game.

"It's a nice deal. Maybe too nice," Gonzalez joked.

The 10-time Pro Bowler became the first tight end in NFL history



Atlanta Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez (88) makes a catch behind the Pittsburgh Steelers defense in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010. Pittsburgh won 15-9 in overtime.

Associated Press

to reach 1,000 catches in a 15-9 overtime loss at Pittsburgh. He finished with two receptions, leaving him at 1,001 for his career.

"It's definitely special," he said. "I never thought I'd be on that list, ever. Even up until three or four years ago, it seemed so far out of reach. I've just been lucky, really lucky. I've been around some great quarterbacks in some great systems, with some coordinators who really trusted me enough to get me the ball. I've just been lucky, too, to stay healthy. That's a big part of it." □

SPORTS BRIEFS



HTC Columbia rider Mark Cavendish from Britain reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the 18th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race over 92.5 miles with start in Valladolid and finish in Salamanca, Spain, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010.

Associated Press

Cavendish wins third Spanish Vuelta stage

SALAMANCA, Spain (AP) — Mark Cavendish won a hard-fought sprint finish Thursday to take the 18th stage of the Spanish Vuelta, while Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall lead.

The British rider finished the 92.5 miles ride from Valladolid to Salamanca in 3 hours, 27 minutes, 11 seconds. Juan Jose Haedo of Argentina was second and Manuel Cardoso of Portugal was third, with both given the same time as Cavendish.

“It’s me that crosses the line first, but it’s the guys that put me there, a super bunch of eight guys that kept them all at bay,” Cavendish said, paying tribute to his Team HTC-Columbia teammates.

Nibali leads overall by 38 seconds ahead of second-place Ezequiel Mosquera with a total time of 74 hours, 47 minutes, 6 seconds before Friday’s 143.7 miles leg from Piedrahita to Toledo.

“It was a very dangerous stage because of the high side winds which caused difficult conditions in the leading pack,” Nibali said.

The 21-stage Vuelta finishes on Sunday. □



Real Salt Lake’s Kyle Beckerman heads the ball just past Toronto FC goalie Stefan Frei for a goal during the first half of a CONCACAF Champions League soccer game Wednesday, Sept 15, 2010, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

Real Salt Lake beats Toronto 4-1 in Champions League

SANDY, Utah (AP) — Real Salt Lake beat Toronto 4-1 on Wednesday in the CONCACAF Champions League to extend its all-competitions home unbeaten streak to 28 games.

Toronto, playing its first game under interim coach Nick Dasovic after Preki was fired, led early through a Maicon Santos goal in the eighth minute before Real took over.

Kyle Beckerman and Jamison Olave headed in from corners in the 21st and 40th minutes respectively to give the hosts a halftime lead. □

Penguins’ F Jordan Staal to miss start of season



This June 12, 2009, file photo shows Pittsburgh Penguins’ Jordan Staal during NHL hockey practice at Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. Staal needs five to six weeks to recover from the latest procedure performed on his injured right foot and will miss the start of the NHL season.

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Penguins forward Jordan Staal needs five to six weeks to recover from the latest procedure performed on his injured right foot and will miss the start of the NHL season.

A tendon on the top of Staal’s foot was sliced when Canadiens defenseman P.K. Subban stepped on it during an April 30 playoff game. Staal had surgery and returned

Associated Press
to play in less than a week.

After the Penguins were eliminated in the series, Staal had two additional procedures to remove infected tissue in the foot, including another operation. Staal also required treatment with antibiotics.

The 22-year-old Staal has never missed a regular season game to injury in four NHL seasons, but has done little skating this summer because of the injury. A finalist for the Selke Trophy as the league’s

top defensive forward, he wore a walking boot and was on crutches during the NHL awards dinner June 23.

“Jordan developed a post-op infection in his foot, and it required several procedures to ensure that all infected tissues were removed,” Penguins physician Charles Burke said in a statement released by the team.

“Jordan was bothered by a localized recurrent infection in the tissue area near the tendon repair. This has required treatment with both antibiotics and several repeat debridements (clean-outs) to remove infected tissue. We are confident the situation has been resolved.”

The Penguins open training camp Friday and begin the season Oct. 7 at home against Philadelphia. If Staal returns in five weeks, he could play as early as Oct. 21 at Nashville.

“The most important thing now is that the infection has been addressed and Jordan is on the road to recovery,” Penguins general manager Ray Shero said. □

SWIMCOACH

Continued from Page B1

There was no indication that the leave was related to the sexual abuse scandal, but it seemed clear the decision was not made by Schubert.

An e-mail sent to staff and board members, which was obtained by The Associated Press, said USA Swimming executive director Chuck Wielgus and president Jim Wood will conduct “the ongoing evaluation of Mark’s progress and participate in any decision-making that would take place prior to approving Mark’s return, or determining if another course of action is necessary.”

The e-mail said Wood would take over as interim team leader and would not be a candidate for the job on a permanent basis “should Mark not return to the position.”

Another e-mail obtained by the AP, this one sent out by Wielgus to coaches and athletes, said Schubert’s leave would begin immediately and last at least two months.

“Please respect this request that there be no communication (phone, text or email) with Mark during this leave period. If you have questions, concerns or messages that you wish to have delivered to Mark please channel these through Stacy Michael-Miller at USA Swimming,” Wielgus wrote. Michael-Miller is the group’s athlete services manager.

AttemptstoreachSchubertwerenotimmediately successful. A call to his cell phone said it was no longer a working number. An e-mail also was sent to him requesting comment.

Schubert has served on the U.S. coaching staff at every Olympics since 1984, working with such greats as Janet Evans, Dara Torres, Shirley Babashoff and Lenny Krayzelburg.

He took over in the newly created position of national team coach after the 2004 Athens Games, heading a program that boomed in popularity and benefited from a dramatic increase in revenue over the past decade, led by 14-time gold medal winner Michael Phelps.

But USA Swimming has endured a difficult year. Reports of numerous sexual abuse allegations against coaches, including former national team director Everett Uchiyama, led the organization to publish a list of officials who were banned for life and propose tougher rules to deal with the issue. Critics say the group is more concerned with protecting itself than addressing the problem.

In addition, Wielgus has led an effort to reorganize the board that governs the USA Swimming Foundation — the group’s main fundraising and philanthropic arm. All 13 members of the board, which included business leaders from firms such as Hewlett Packard and Deloitte & Touche LLP, submitted their resignations on June 30. □

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

S. African hospital charged
in organ trafficking

JOHANNESBURG – A major South African hospital chain and its chief executive have been charged after years of investigation into a human organ trafficking case that stretched from Israel to South Africa to Brazil, hospital officials and police said Thursday.

Police spokesman Vish Naidoo said 11 suspects were ordered to appear in court in November. He refused to name them, but the board of directors of the Netcare hospital chain said in a statement that the parent company, its chief executive officer, Dr. Richard Friedland, and its subsidiary in the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal received subpoenas on Wednesday.

“The board has been advised that the allegations made are unjustified and that neither Netcare nor Dr. Friedland are guilty of any wrongdoing,” the statement said, adding that Friedland would not be relieved of his duties pending trial.

“The board fully supports Dr. Friedland and expresses its regret that the prosecuting authorities have seen fit to press charges against him and Netcare, particularly in view of the unqualified cooperation which Netcare and Dr. Friedland have given to the investigating and prosecuting authorities to assist in those investigations,” said Netcare, which operates hospitals across South Africa, among them some of the continent’s most respected facilities.

The case first became known in 2003. That year and the next, arrests were made in Brazil and South Africa. Investigators said Brazilians who passed a medical checkup were flown to South Africa, where their kidneys were extracted for transplants into Israeli patients. Eastern Europeans were also donors.

It is believed more than 100 illegal kidney transplants were performed at Netcare’s St. Augustine Hospital in the eastern coastal city of Durban in 2001 and 2002.

Police spokesman Naidoo said three people a recipient and two “coordinators” were convicted in 2003. The police probe, which involved investigators from several foreign countries, did not stop there, he said.

Naidoo said the case involved selling organs, which is illegal in South Africa and most of the rest of the world.

There is a high demand and small supply of kidneys, which can be taken from a living donor. The black market is believed to be thriving around the world. India in particular has been a source of organs, with some reports of poor laborers being duped or forced into giving up kidneys, which were then transplanted into wealthy people who would come to India from around the world for the operations. □

Lawmakers: protect embryonic
stem cell research

WASHINGTON – Sen. Arlen Specter said Thursday that Congress should “get busy” on giving legal stature to the federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research to avoid giving a final say on the issue to a conservative Supreme Court.

The Pennsylvania Democrat spoke at a Senate hearing where scientists also expressed concern about recent court rulings that have disrupted funding for embryonic stem cell research, seen as offering promising potential for treating Parkinson’s Disease, spinal cord injuries and numerous other debilitating illnesses.

“Congress had better get busy and had better act on this subject so we do not wait for court action,” said Specter, who earlier this week introduced legislation to codify rules issues by President Barack Obama last year to ease restrictions on embryonic stem cell research. He cited several recent cases where the Supreme Court had issued stays on lower court rulings on “ideological grounds.”

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, head of the Senate Appropriations health subcommittee that held the hearing, concurred. “We’ve come too far to give up now,” he said. “If we don’t win this battle now we’ll have to take it up in Congress.” Harkin too

has introduced legislation to allow for federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research.

The National Institutes of Health has already spent more than \$500 million on this research, proceeding with federal funding since President George W. Bush in 2001 allowed restricted federal assistance.

But last month U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth issued a preliminary injunction in which he stated that the research violated a 1996 law banning the use of taxpayer money to derive stem cells from embryos. An appeals court has since temporarily stayed that order until it can hear full arguments in the coming weeks.

Despite that temporary reprieve, the injunction “has created deep uncertainty in the field of embryonic stem cell research,” testified NIH director Francis S. Collins. He said 244 pending grants adding up to about \$200 million had to be put on hold. To have funding cut off “would be a devastating blow.”

George Q. Daley, associate director of the stem cell program at Children’s Hospital Boston, said doubts about court action are “disrupting our research, they are dissuading scientists from entering the field and they are threatening

American preeminence in the research.”

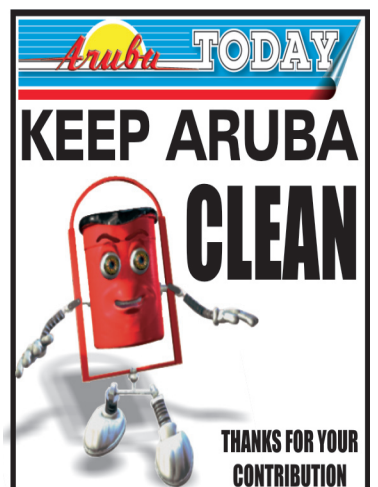
Embryonic stem cells have the potential to be turned into different kinds of tissue that could be used to regenerate and repair tissue and treat a host of diseases including heart disease, Parkinson’s, diabetes and Lou Gehrig’s disease. The cells are derived from excess embryos created during in vitro fertilization therapies that would eventually be discarded.

Opponents say the research is another form of abortion because human embryos must be destroyed to obtain the stem cells.

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., co-author of the 1996 law prohibiting the use of federal funds in work that harms an embryo, said at the hearing that the emphasis should be put on using adult stem cells for research, thus avoiding the “ethical challenges” associated with embryonic cells.

As a result of that law, government policy has been to work with stem cells after private money is used to cull them from embryos.

Collins said the NIH currently spends more on adult stem cell research than on embryonic stem cells, but that the two types of cells have different potential and current uses in both areas must be pursued. □



Redford goes indie with Lincoln 'Conspirator' tale

TORONTO — Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival has hooked up scores of eager young directors with theatrical distributors.

Now Redford has succeeded at the same independent game he helped establish with Sundance: He came to the Toronto International Film Festival with a drama made outside of Hollywood and went away with a deal to land it in theaters.

Acquired Wednesday by Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions, Redford's Lincoln assassination saga "The Conspirator" arguably was the biggest film to enter the prestigious Toronto festival without a distributor already in place.

Redford had been to the Toronto festival before with a film he directed, 1992's "A River Runs Through It." People had asked him about the possibility of premiering "The Conspirator" at Sundance in January, but he never considered it, recalling the mixed feelings he had when his own festival premiered a film in which he starred, "The Clearing," in 2004.

"I was uneasy about that and still am and think that was a mistake. I don't ever want to do that again. I see that as too dangerously self-serving, and I just don't want it," Redford, 74, said in an interview.

"The Conspirator" is a \$20 million production, small by Hollywood standards but huge for the independent world, where movies often are made by unknowns who max out their credit cards just to cover the basic costs of filming.

The story of "The Conspirator" also is huge, chronicling the little-known aftermath of the assassination, when boarding-house owner Mary Surratt (Robin Wright) was put on trial at a military tribunal along with male defendants accused of plotting with Lincoln's killer, John Wilkes Booth.

Reluctantly recruited to defend Surratt, a Union war hero (James McAvoy) gradually comes to doubt his own government's motives, viewing his client as a scapegoat in a sham trial.

"The Conspirator" is the first production financed by the American Film Co., launched by billionaire Joe Ricketts, who

founded the online brokerage Ameritrade and whose family owns the Chicago Cubs. Ricketts started the production outfit to make films based on American history.

Wright, like many Americans, knew nothing about the conspiracy trial that followed the assassination.

"The household name was Booth growing up in history class," Wright said. "That's all I remember."

The film is stacked with rhetoric about civil liberties and constitutional rights, lines that could come from the mouths of critics assailing tribunals and detention of suspects in today's war on terror.

"The fact that the comparisons are there, it's partly because it's about a miscarriage of justice, which I think is completely part of the human experience. Not just the recent experience of post-9/11 Western countries," McAvoy said. Redford "was at pains not to let us really ram it down people's throats. Some of the lines we had to change as well because they were just too on the nose, and some of the stuff



that some of the characters said were like quotes from many politicians of today."

Redford said he was cautious about the rhetoric, saying, "I have been framed maybe it's my own fault framed as somebody that's doing political films with a liberal bent to them."

Any parallels to today arose entirely from the story unfolding in "The Conspirator," he said.

"The beauty of it is, this is not something that a filmmaker invents to put in there as a kind of a lesson to be learned or something to be preached to get attention. History provides it," Redford said. "History is a

series of loops. Patterns keep repeating themselves. If you get McCarthy, you're going to get Nixon, and you're going to get Bush. You're just going to get that. You're going to get those patterns."

"The Conspirator" co-stars Kevin Kline, Evan Rachel Wood, Alexis Bledel, Justin Long, Tom Wilkinson and Colm Meaney. Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions plan to release the film next spring, timing that suits Redford, who said he senses renewed interest in the assassination with an off-Broadway play about Booth and other Lincoln-related projects. □

Proenza Schouler: Sassy Classy Chic

New York — Finally, after a week watching models dressed as if returning from a '70s nightclub, Proenza Schouler presented the most contemporary statement of fashion for the coming decade seen all week in the current New York season.

Inspired and ignited by a visit to Japan of Proenza Schouler's creative duo Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez, this spring 2011 collection presented on Wednesday, Sept. 15, had all the uptown aplomb one expects from this brand, but allied with a sense of sassy color.

The key element was the fabric; especially shibori silk, where by tying chiffon in knots before being immersed in dye creates an explosively dimpled color pattern. With runways across the city crammed with zigzag disco club wear prints, these random kaleidoscopes of color were super refreshing.

"We were looking at cliched

ideas of femininity - lingerie, lace, color, flowers, tweed, pencil, skirts. All those ideas of sophistication and then translating them in an insane way," explained Hernandez post-show. "There was really no reference. We wanted to just feel new and modern," he added, of a show, where there was little structure, and tweed jackets slouched rather than hung. Crinkly, twisted and including skirts that looked more spun by a spider than sewn by a seamstress, the collection had a floating, lightweight appearance that had a great charm. They were in contrast to the hard urban setting, a funky old garage in Chelsea where the backdrop was a large wall made of huge stacks of plasterboard.

Featuring lots of cool accessories - from aviator style sunglasses and large antique, stone encrusted amulets to coin rings and natty new pastel colored shoulder bags



- the collection zipped right along to a soundtrack of a scat singer over a full orchestra. Halfway through, the designers shifted gear with a series of semi-sheer chiffon dresses, cut more maturely below the knee, yet subverted as they all revealed bras and underwear beneath. The trick sabotaged the formality of the look, even as it rendered it new and chic - just like the techniques that made this such a memorable show. □

Susan Boyle's dream: To sing for the pope



GLASGOW, Scotland — Susan Boyle has dreamed a dream and is singing for the pope.

Boyle, the unlikely pop star who shot to global Internet fame after she sang on the TV show "Britain's Got Talent," was to reprise her winning performance of "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables" during a Mass on Thursday celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI. Boyle was also joining an 800-strong choir in singing hymns at Glasgow's Bellahouston Park.

In a pre-Mass statement, the Scottish-born Boyle said "it's a great honor to sing for the pope and it's something I've always dreamed of." Benedict was capping off his first day of a four-day state visit to Britain that included a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II at Holyroodhouse Palace in Edinburgh. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

How Elizabeth Warren Will Help Consumers

Soon after word got out that the White House appointed Elizabeth Warren to serve as special advisor and help set up the new consumer protection bureau, Twitter and Facebook erupted with shouts of excitement from personal finance and consumer experts: "Yahoo!" exclaimed Beth Kobliner, author of *Get a Financial Life*. "Elizabeth Warren's appointment is a huge victory for consumers!" [See 8 Painless Ways to Save Money.] Warren, a Harvard law professor who has headed the Congressional Oversight Panel, is celebrated as a force of good in the consumer world. Before taking on public roles, she was best known for her book, *The Two-Income Trap: Why Middle-Class Parents are Going Broke*, which explains why so many middle-class Americans feel so squeezed. She's also not afraid to stand up for 'the little people.' Last year, her Congressional oversight panel criticized the Treasury Department for not doing more to help struggling families and called for greater transparency in the use of the bailout funds.

It's not hard to understand, and embrace, the excitement over her appointment. Here are six reasons Warren's appointment is good for consumers:

She's a strong middle-class advocate. In an interview with U.S. News in February 2009, Warren emphasized the importance of supporting middle-class families: "The financial system can't be stabilized without stabilizing families. If families continue to choke on debt they cannot pay, the whole system will continue to falter. ... The outcome of this recession will either be a significantly strengthened middle class--which has less debt and a stronger safety net, both on its own and through new

government regulation--or the middle class we once knew will disappear. [In that case,] America will move to a two-class economy--a substantial upper class that's financially secure and then a very large underclass that lives paycheck to paycheck."

She's a celebrity. How many bureaucrats have rap videos written for them? The fact that the government's top consumer advocate is so well-known brings much-needed attention to consumer causes and concerns. If a no-name expert filled her position, the new bureau wouldn't get nearly so much attention. She believes in the value of good government policies. Government policy, says Warren, is what will determine the future of America's middle-class. Now, she's in a position to help shape those policies. In the 2009 interview, she said helping people keep their homes and jobs should be the government's priority: "Stopping the tide of foreclosures would help a great deal. Both because it would keep some families out of complete economic collapse, and it would let others stabilize the value of their biggest asset, their homes. It would also stop the continuing deterioration of some communities, and it would be good for jobs," she said.

She has widespread support in the consumer world. Here's how Carmen Wong Ulrich, television personality and author of the forthcoming *The Real Cost of Living* puts it: "[Warren] is our Wonder Woman. Her appointment means we--American consumers, Main Street--have a hero in Washington. She'll be our voice and champion and fill a gaping vacancy in terms of keeping our financial lives under a watchful eye, while many others have been

either blind or sleeping."

[For more money-saving tips, visit the U.S. News Alpha Consumer blog.]

Warren's smart and can put economic concepts in basic English. Here's how she explained what caused the current recession to U.S. News: "This recession started years ago with declining wages and rising core expenses. Families tried to adjust by working more jobs and longer hours, depleting their savings, and taking on debt. □



EU to waive tariffs to help Pakistan



BRUSSELS – The European Union declared Thursday it will temporarily waive World Trade Organization tariffs on key Pakistani imports to help boost the flood-devastated country's economy.

The 27-nation bloc agreed at a summit in Brussels to grant Pakistan immediate, although temporary, import duty relief both as a humanitarian gesture and as a way to help the country prevent Islamic extremists from exploiting economic instability.

"The severity of this crisis demands an immediate and substantial response," the EU said in a declaration.

"A stable, democratic and prosperous Pakistan is key to addressing global issues such as counterterrorism, nonproliferation or counter-narcotics."

The EU already has committed

millions of euros in aid to help Pakistan recover from the devastation. It also wanted to craft a long-term strategy to help the country get its economy back on track amid fears Islamic extremists could exploit the crisis to strengthen their hold on northwestern regions close to the border with Afghanistan.

"There is a humanitarian crisis in Pakistan, there are also clear and very worrying concerns about what can happen in Pakistan with all that is going on, and all the dangers that everyone is aware of," British Prime Minister David Cameron told reporters.

The decision on Pakistan was a success story at a summit blighted by infighting over France's much-criticized expulsions of Gypsies.

"I believe this was a test for the European Union to make sure

that when we talk about our external relations we can show we can deliver results and not just rhetoric," Cameron told reporters.

The final details of which exports will be covered and how long the waiver will last will be worked out by the European Commission by October, he said.

Diplomats have said the move could be worth between euro230-euro300 million (\$290-\$380 million) a year for Pakistan.

Similar waivers were adopted to help countries recover after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake that flattened large swaths of Haiti in January.

Extremely heavy monsoon rains unleashed floods in northwest Pakistan at the end of July and the disaster spread south, killing more than 1,700 people and affecting another 17 million.

Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations warned recently that the flooding has stretched thin the Pakistani military and will hamper its fight against terrorists.

The EU also agreed to look at granting Pakistan a favored trading status with the EU after 2014, Cameron said. □

Can Sony's Move satisfy the hardcore gamer?



The launch lineup for Sony Corp.'s PlayStation Move features all the types of games that have been popular on Nintendo's Wii: bowling; tennis; golf; even exercise.

That might be great for some, but hardcore gamers want more. The PlayStation 3 is more technologically sophisticated than the Wii. Will Move games follow suit?

"Can you imagine a real-time strategy game on this?" Sony's Richard Marks said during a Move demonstration last month. He had been asked about the possibility of using the technology to

play a complex strategy game such as "Civilization." He responded by calling up a 3D map, zooming toward and away from it, flying over and under it, and finally folding it up. Marks, manager of special projects in Sony's research and development unit, said the Move controller "is a great input device for 3D." It's so precise, he said, "it's like a really good mouse."

"You'll be able to truly reach into a virtual world and interact in 3D with what is there, in so many different ways," he added. You could "pick up a rock and hurl it at the legs of a charging monster, or cast a fireball into a crowd, or build a barricade to take cover behind."

Some of these projects are already in the works for next year. The role-playing game

"Sorcery" will let you wield the controller as a magic wand. Shooters such as "Killzone 3" and "SOCOM 4: U.S. Navy SEALs" turn it into a machine gun or sniper rifle. And the PS3's high-definition graphics make the sense of immersion even stronger.

But I'm particularly looking forward to "Echochrome II," the sequel to Sony's innovative 2008 maze game. This time, platforms hang in front of a white wall. You use the controller like a flashlight, angling it so the shadow of the platforms creates a cohesive path.

A simple idea, sure, but one that tickles the brain in unexpected ways. And that could be the key of the Move's success: whether its games provide mental as well as physical stimulation. □

Microsoft teams up with Japanese game studios



CHIBA, Japan – Microsoft Corp. kicked off the Tokyo Game Show Thursday by unveiling plans to help Japanese game makers recently seen as insular and lagging overseas competitors to aggressively pursue a bigger share of the global market.

In a keynote address, Phil Spencer, head of Microsoft's games division, announced five new partnerships with Japanese studios and declared the country's creativity as key

to the Xbox 360 console's future.

"Japanese games are the games that the world loves to play," Spencer said, noting the Japanese origins of classic arcade games like Donkey Kong and Pac-Man.

The Tokyo Game Show, which runs through Sunday, is Asia's largest video game trade show. More than 185,000 people attended last year's event.

The game industry in Japan has engaged in frequent hand-wringing in recent years over

signs of decline: insularity and a shrinking home market, a dearth of young developers and a sense that it had fallen behind Western game technology.

At the 2008 Tokyo Game Show, the chief executive of Square Enix Holdings Co., a major Japanese game publisher, made waves when he declared that Japan had lost its place as the world's video-game leader. While Japanese titles used to dominate, their popularity in the West has receded as U.S. companies like Electronic Arts and Activision grab market share. Meanwhile, Microsoft has been on a bit of a roll lately. The Xbox 360 was the best-selling console in the U.S. three months in a row, according to market research firm NPD Group. It shipped 356,700 units in August, up about 66 percent from last year.

The console is No. 1 across Europe as well, Spencer said.

Microsoft appears to have a blockbuster on its hands with the latest edition of its popular "Halo" first-person shooter franchise. Released Tuesday, "Halo: Reach" made \$200 million on its first day alone, making it the biggest entertainment debut this year. The Redmond, Wash.-based company also has high hopes for Kinect, its new controller-free gaming system that goes on sale in North America on Nov. 4. Once known as Project Natal, Kinect stretches the concept of motion capture that propelled the Nintendo Wii's global success. Instead of a hand-held controller, Kinect relies instead on a camera system that recognizes gestures and voices, enabling players to control on-screen avatars in action and sports games simply by moving their own bodies.

Spencer said Microsoft's momentum represents an "incredible opportunity" for

both Japanese developers and his own company.

"We've seen the industry move to a place where we're trying to engage more and more people to play games," Spencer said after the keynote. "And that plays to the strength of what Japanese game design history is all about."

Microsoft has inked deals with five Japanese companies Spike Co., Treasure Co., NanaOn-Sha Co., Grounding Inc., Grasshopper Manufacture Inc. all of which are developing Xbox-exclusive games for release in 2011.

Goichi Suda, CEO of Grasshopper Manufacture, told the crowd that his company is working on a core action game for the Kinect called "Codename D."

Kinect will be sold bundled with the Xbox or as a stand-alone system, which can be connected to existing consoles. It will cost \$150 in the U.S. and 14,800 yen in Japan. □



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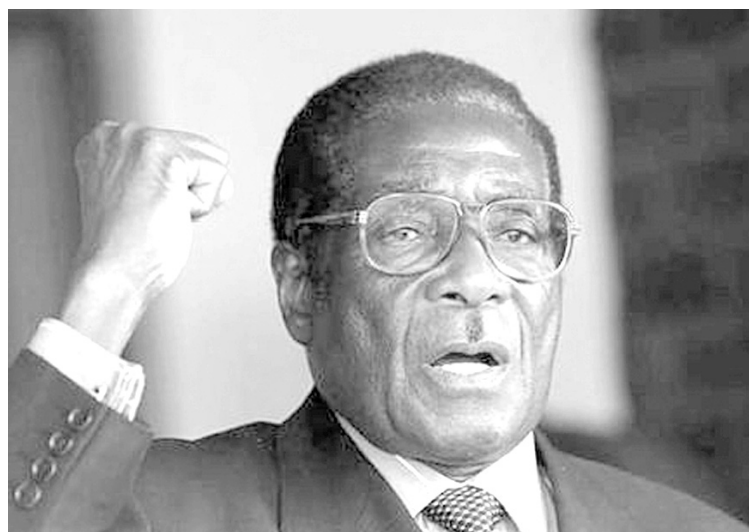
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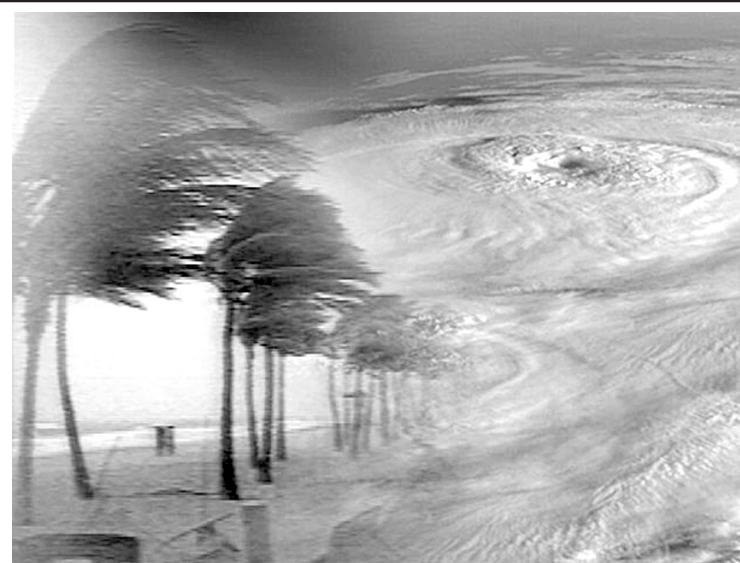
When T. Rex Became Tyrannical



This isn't your daddy's Tyrannosaurus Rex. The king of the dinosaurs evolved from ancestors that spent most of their evolutionary history skulking in the shadows of other giant predators, and may have even sported hair-like feathers. T. rex made a late evolutionary arrival on the dinosaur scene, according to the latest paleontological evidence. Earlier tyrannosaurs remained the size of humans until about 80 million years ago, said Stephen Brusatte, a vertebrate paleontologist and evolutionary biologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. "Up until about ten years ago we only knew about T. rex and a handful of its closest relatives - all colossal, apex predators from the end Cretaceous in North America," Brusatte explained. "Now we know of about 20 tyrannosaur species that span a time period of 100 million years, most of which are very small." Multi-ton late-Cretaceous specimens had defined

scientific understanding of the tyrannosaurs since the first discovery 105 years ago. But the last decade saw an explosion of tyrannosaur discoveries that doubled the family's diversity, including six new species in the last year alone. Now Brusatte and colleagues have created the first comprehensive family tree for tyrannosaur cousins large and small, as detailed in the Sept. 17 issue of the journal *Science*. Supersize me The family tree shows how tyrannosaurs first originated about 165 million years ago during the Middle Jurassic. They remained mostly small, fast-footed dinosaurs just one hundredth the size of T. rex. In fact the late-Cretaceous tyrannosaur giants looked more like their nimbler ancestors as young dinosaurs, capable of more active hunting. But then they grew rapidly to reach full maturity at the age of 20, putting on more than 4 pounds (2 kg) per day, and losing much

of their fancy footwork. Such growth spurts allowed the late tyrannosaur adults to weigh in at 11,000 to 17,600 pounds (5 to 8 metric tons), but also limited their running speeds to between 16 and 36 feet per second (5 and 11 meters per second). By comparison, a racehorse running full-tilt can hit speeds of almost 66 feet per second (20 mps). Hungry, hungry dino T. rex made up for its slow movement with keen hearing and smell, as well as a bone-crushing bite that might have topped 3,000 pounds of force (13,400 newtons). Bite marks on a wide variety of dinosaur fossils reveal that it was no picky eater, and probably represented both a hunter and scavenger. Researchers still don't know why tyrannosaurs got a shot at quickly becoming top predators during the twilight years of the dinosaurs. But the fossil record shows that many other giant predators had gone extinct by about 80 million years ago, and tyrannosaur body size exploded soon after. "We hypothesize that the giant size of tyrannosaurs was only possible once other large predators went extinct, giving tyrannosaurs the space and freedom to flower and become apex predators," Brusatte told LiveScience in an e-mail. Many other questions about tyrannosaurs also remain, despite the fact that the group represents perhaps the best-studied among the dinosaurs □



Astronauts Savor View of Hurricane 'Igor the Terrible' and Sister Storm

Hurricane Igor dazzled the crew aboard the International Space Station and even earned a nickname after the astronauts gazed straight through the huge storm's eye to see the ocean waters below. American astronaut Douglas Wheelock and his crewmates peered down at Igor from an observation deck as their outpost sailed 220 miles (354 km) above the storm Tuesday (Sept. 14). Wheelock posted a photo of it on Twitter, where he writes as Astro_Wheels, and dubbed the hurricane "Igor the Terrible." [Astronaut photo: Eye Hurricane Igor.] In an interview televised on NASA TV that same day, Wheelock said: "We looked right into the eye of Hurricane Igor, which is absolutely fantastic, the view. We could see the water of the Atlantic Ocean right down through the eye, and it was spectacular. It really just takes your breath away ... no words to describe it." Wheelock also snapped a photo of the Atlantic storm that would become Hurricane Julia. Astronaut Shannon Walker agreed with Wheelock's description. "The hurricanes are spectacular," she said. NASA released a video of Hurricane Igor from space, recorded by cameras on the station Tuesday. As of today (Sept. 15), Igor had weakened slightly, though it remained a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, according to the National Hurricane Center. The strongest storms are labeled Category 5. Wheelock photographed Julia as it left the Cape Verde Islands, before it produced the wind speeds fast enough and barometric pressure low enough to gain hurricane status. In his Twitter post, Wheelock said he expected Julia to grow stronger. "Currently only a tropical storm, but showing tremendous organization and rotation,"

Wheelock wrote. "I think we may hear more from Julia in the coming days." Currently it is a Category 4 hurricane like Igor. Space station astronauts have been keeping a close watch on the 2010 hurricane season, which runs from June through November. Storm scientists are also tracking another potential hurricane, Tropical Storm Karl, as it makes landfall on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. Coming back out over the Gulf of Mexico, it could strengthen into a hurricane before making landfall again along the coast of Mexico. The space station is currently home to six astronauts: three Americans and three Russians □

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Renuncia jefa Gabinete Brasil por acusación de corrupción

BRASILIA (Reuters) - La jefa de Gabinete del presidente brasileño Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva presentó su renuncia el jueves, en medio de un escándalo ético, en una acción vista como un intento por impedir dañar a la candidata oficialista y favorita para las elecciones del mes próximo.

Erenice Guerra, cuyo rol como jefa de Gabinete ejerce influencia en el Gobierno de Lula, había estado bajo una creciente presión en los últimos días para que dejara el cargo por acusaciones de que habría estado involucrada en un caso de soborno para contratos de obras públicas. El principal candidato opositor, José Serra, que ha bajado fuertemente en los sondeos, ha buscado vincular el escándalo con la candidata oficialista, Dilma Rousseff, quien precedió a Guerra como jefa de Gabinete antes de salir del cargo para postular a la presidencia.

No obstante, Rousseff sigue encaminada a obtener la mayoría de los votos en primera ronda el 3 de octubre, con lo que se convertiría en la primera mujer presidente de Brasil, pese a acusaciones de que ha condonado malas conductas dentro del Partido de los Trabajadores (PT).

Guerra ha sido acusada de tráfico de influencias y de ayudar a la consultoría de su hijo a obtener dinero a partir de contratos de obras públicas, incluyendo la época cuando era asesora de Rousseff antes de convertirse

en jefa de Gabinete.

La candidata elegida por el presidente Lula no ha sido vinculada a fechoría alguna, por lo que analistas afirman que es improbable que los escándalos reduzcan su amplia ventaja, de 20 puntos o más, en los sondeos de intención de voto.

“Las posibilidades de que (la renuncia de Guerra) fueren a una segunda ronda aún son más bien pequeñas. La oposición tendría que ser muy hábil para explotar este incidente”, opinó Amaury de Souza, analista política de la consultoría MCM Asociados.

“Hasta ahora, los escándalos de corrupción no cambiaron las preferencia de los votantes, excepto entre aquellos con mayor (nivel de) educación e ingresos. Eso es insuficiente para cambiar las posibilidades”, agregó.

La renuncia de Guerra incluso podría aumentar el apoyo a Rousseff si es vista por los electores como una medida decisiva para purgar a una funcionaria involucrada en corrupción, dijo José Luciano Dias, analista político de la consultoría CAC, en Brasilia.

“Dilma incluso va a ganar algunos votos. El Gobierno va a decir que investigó y tomó acciones”, sostuvo.

La mayoría de los más recientes sondeos indica que Rousseff, quien se ha visto beneficiada por la enorme popularidad de Lula, ganaría las elecciones en primera ronda, con lo que evitaría un



Foto de archivo del presidente brasileño, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (izquierda en la imagen), junto a su jefa de gabinete, Erenice Guerra, en Brasilia, ago 26 2010. REUTERS/Roberto Jayme

balotaje el 31 de octubre.

Rousseff cuenta con un 51 por ciento de las intenciones de

voto, contra un 27 por ciento

de Serra, del opositor Partido de la Social Democracia

Brasileña (PSDB), según un sondeo de Datafolha divulgado el jueves. □

Escándalo por espionaje en campaña electoral de Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - Un nuevo caso de espionaje telefónico remeció el jueves a Perú en medio de una campaña considerada clave para las elecciones presidenciales del 2011, y recordó un gran escándalo por escuchas ilegales que causó la caída del Gobierno de ex presidente Alberto Fujimori.

Varios medios locales difundieron conversaciones de la candidata Lourdes Flores, una de las favoritas para ganar el 3 de octubre la alcaldía de Lima -la mayor plaza electoral del país-, en las que expresa fuerte indignación por el posible resultado adverso de una encuesta y amenaza con renunciar. Flores, una política conservadora quien ha sido dos veces candidata presidencial, acusó del espionaje de una conversación privada a “la mafia montesinista”, en alusión al ex asesor de inteligencia Vladimiro Montesinos, de gran influencia durante el Gobierno de Fujimori entre 1990 y el 2000.

Montesinos, ahora preso en una base naval, montó una red de espionaje que grababa en secreto miles de videos y audios con conversaciones de políticos, empresarios,

jueces, funcionarios, periodistas y hasta artistas de televisión.

El descubrimiento de la red, que reveló presiones y chantajes políticos, generó poco después la destitución del entonces presidente Fujimori, quien cumple ahora una condena de 25 años de prisión acusado de abusos a los derechos humanos.

“Métense la alcaldía al pote, ¡a mí qué me importa!, ¡a mí qué me importa la alcaldía!”, dijo Flores en la conversación privada difundida por canales de televisión locales y sitios de internet.

Flores lideró por varios meses las encuestas de intención de voto para Lima, pero en las últimas semanas la candidata Susana Villarán, del partido Fuerza Social conformado por movimientos de izquierda, surgió en los sondeos.

En una encuesta difundida el último domingo de la firma Ipsos Apoyo, la más respetada del país, Flores pasó por primera vez al segundo lugar con un 31 por ciento de intención de voto frente a Villarán que se ubicó arriba con un 33 por ciento. □



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